DREAM DESK

Get some office shut-eye in this hammock — you've earned it

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50 WINS

Toronto Raptors make team history metroSPORTS

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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2016

Is your pet worth $20,000 a year in vet bills?

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ROB FORD'S FUNERAL AND HIS LEGACY

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MELISSA RENWICK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Frustration over refugee slow-down

PRIVATELY SPONSORED

Advocate says money is raised, apartments are rented, but ...

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

A coalition of Toronto sponsorship groups is refusing to stand silent as the federal government scales back efforts to process Syrian refugees.

Instead, they're gearing up for a movement aimed at pressuring Justin Trudeau's Liberals to keep refugee resettlement as a priority. At this point, things are "almost back to where it was with the Conservatives," said Claude Hould, one of the people at a Wednesday night meeting designed to rally around the cause and develop a strategy to address it.

The Liberals' decision to shutter foreign processing centres and cap applications for privately sponsored refugee applications started making waves last week. Coming about three weeks after the government fulfilled its promise to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of February, the changes have left hundreds of private sponsor groups in the city wondering when — or if — the families they've been expecting are due.

"People are very unhappy," said former Toronto mayor and refugee advocate John Sewell. "They've raised $40,000, some have rented an apartment and now the government says we just can't process anyone anymore."

Hould's church has received four of the 16 Syrian families it agreed to sponsor. Another three are reportedly on the way, but the Ottawa office that was keeping track of them appears to be a casualty of the cutbacks, he said.

"You call and it says the line is no longer being monitored and it asks you to leave a message," he said.

If the private sponsorship process becomes too long or laborious, Hould worries the "groundswell" of support Toronto showed Syrian refugees will wane.

"As a result of the uncertainty, no one else wants to start an application," he said. "We're all assuming the worst."

THE NUMBERS

26,207: Syrian refugees who have arrived in Canada since Nov. 4.
8,981: Privately sponsored refugees who have arrived.
15,001: Government sponsored refugees who have arrived.

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Your essential daily news

Lady Gaga teams up with U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden to raise awareness about sexual assault.

Brrr ... winter set to take another swipe at spring

WEATHER

City expected to feel coldest bite between Sunday and Tuesday

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Hang on to that toque, winter jacket and mitts. And put those gardening and barbecue plans on hold.

This is no April Fools joke. The Polar Vortex is back, bringing below-seasonal temperatures to Ontario and parts of East and Central Canada.

"If anybody is contemplating changing their winter tires, it's probably best to leave them on for a while," said Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson.

The unusually cold stretch is the result of an influx of cold air from the Arctic. Under normal conditions, the strong jet stream prevents the coldest air masses from making their way further south.

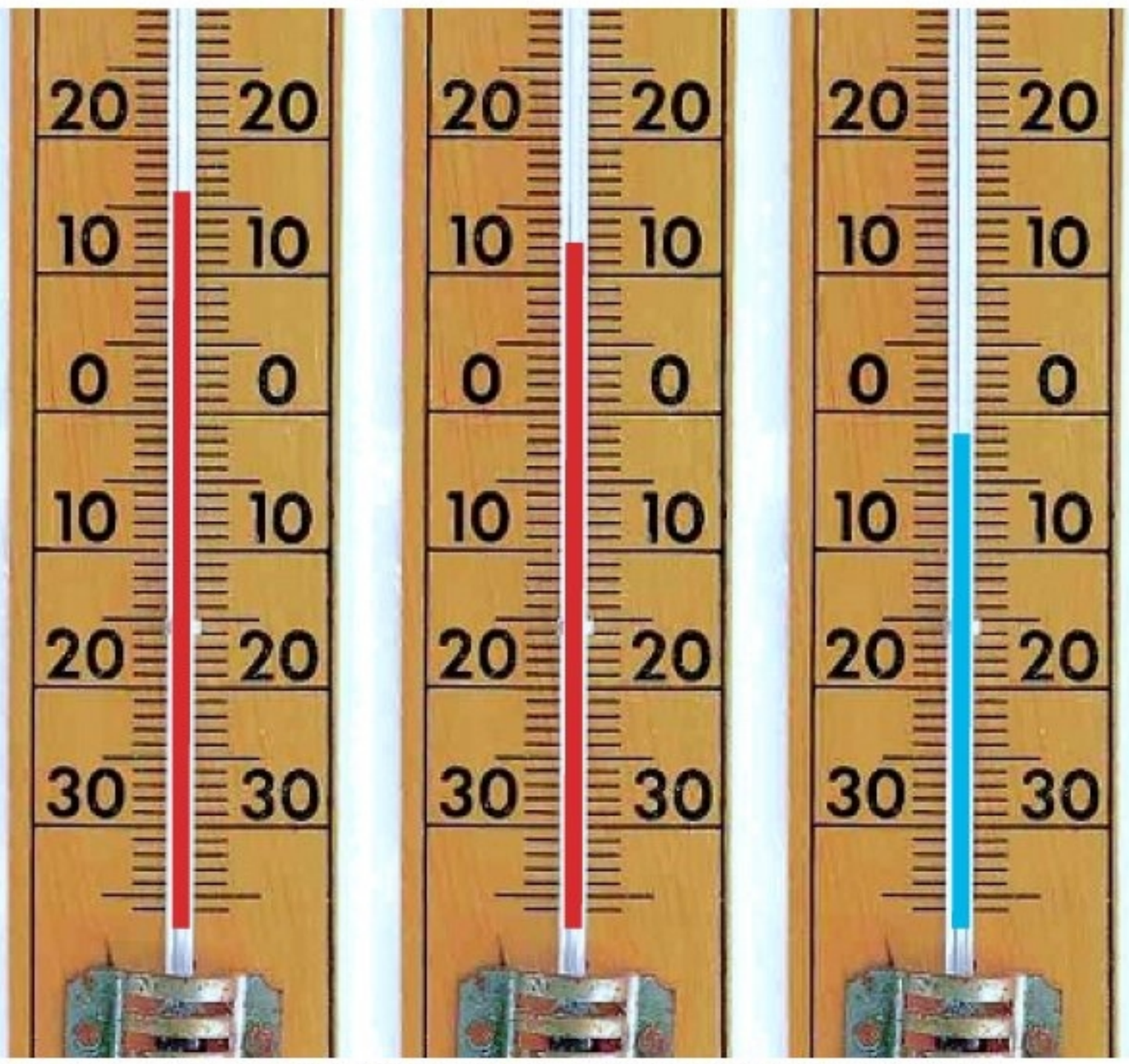
"For much of this winter, that's been the case," Coulson said. "We've had a fairly mild winter in the GTA but now we're seeing a weakening of that protection."

The coldest spell is expected to hit Toronto between Sunday and Tuesday, when temperatures will drop to below freezing. Overnight lows could reach –8 C.

Normal highs this time of the year would be around 8 C.

Despite the frigid temperatures, Coulson said it's unlikely that Toronto will see any snow.

"If there's any consolation during this stretch, it's that there will be days with lots of sunshine," he said.



The high temperatures of Wednesday, left, and Thursday, centre. On the right is the average low temperature expected for this weekend. ISTOCK

MISSISSAUGA

Muzzo park renamed

No, not that Marco Muzzo.

That's the message Mississauga city council is trying to communicate after it passed a resolution Wednesday renaming Marco Muzzo Memorial Woods and Park to Marco Muzzo Senior Memorial Woods and Park.

According to a resolution moved by Coun. Sue McFadden, whose ward includes the park, there appeared to be confusion and concern from the community that it was named after convicted drunk driver Marco Muzzo.

The park is actually named for his late grandfather, also named Marco, a titan in the construction and development industry who died in 2005.

McFadden said she knew Muzzo Sr., and that he was responsible for building much of the surrounding area where the park is located. She said Senior would not be pleased with Junior's actions.

Other locations bearing the Muzzo name include the Marco Muzzo Atrium at the University of Toronto Mississauga's library and the Muzzo Family Alumni Hall on the downtown Toronto campus.

A university spokeswoman said no concerns have been raised about the names.

All quiet at Brampton Civic Hospital as well, according to a spokeswoman, who said no complaints have been received about its DeGasperis & Muzzo atrium.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GTAA

GTAA Annual Public Meeting

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) hereby gives notice of its Annual Public Meeting.

The GTAA is the operator of Toronto Pearson International Airport, the largest airport in Canada and one of the largest in North America in terms of passenger and air cargo traffic. In 2015, more than 41 million passengers passed through the airport. By the mid-2030s, it is estimated the airport will serve 65 million passengers per year.

Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2016
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Toronto Congress Centre, Sutherland Room, 650 Dixon Road, Toronto
Parking will be validated.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Selma M. Lussenburg
Corporate Secretary

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Son 'not that kind of kid'

COURTS

Accused didn't try to join terror group on family vacation: Mom

Kevin Omar Mohamed is in jail because police allege he went to Turkey to join a terrorist group. His mom says it was an innocent family vacation; she and Mohamed's brother were along for the trip.

So if the RCMP wants to throw her son behind bars, she says they should lock her up, too.

"If they want to arrest Kevin for going there (Turkey) then they should be arresting all three of us," said Mohamed's mother, Debbie.

The 23-year-old former University of Waterloo student was arrested last week and later charged with "participating in the activity of a terrorist group." The RCMP alleges he went to Turkey in April 2014 to join Jabhat al-Nusra, an Al Qaeda branch fighting in Syria.

Speaking to media for the first time, his mother said she and her sons had been planning the trip for a long time before they visited the country in 2014.

According to Debbie, Mohamed went ahead a week early but was later joined by herself and her eldest son, who had stayed back to write an exam.

Deborah Mohamed, mother of Kevin Omar Mohamed, leaves Brampton Court on Tuesday after her son was charged with participating in a terror group. J.P. MOCZULSKI/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **How could he be training if he was with me?**
> Deborah Mohamed

Numerous sources have connected Mohamed with a Twitter account using the handle "Abu Jayyid," which included statements supporting the al-Nusra Front.

One tweet, dated March 24, included a screenshot from a video game, with a gun firing at people in what appears to be an airport security lineup. The tweet said: "Where can I get the Brussels airport MOD on Call of Duty?"

Debbie described her son as a "religious boy" but said that as far as she was aware he was not involved in spreading terrorist views online.

"I don't know if he is this person they say he is," she said. "I know that he has some different views about things, but other people have put a lot of things on the Internet and they haven't been picked up for that."

Debbie said the situation surrounding her son "escalated" after she had an argument with him and she didn't hear from him for a week.

She reported to police that her son was missing, but blamed his disappearance on herself being an "overprotective" mother.

"After he went missing, you see all kinds of things on TV and of course you kind of think … but no, he contacted me a few days later."

Debbie refused to clarify, other than saying, "He was not that kind of kid."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRIME

Retired doctor jailed for sex crime

Retired Toronto pediatrician Arturo Sanchez was sentenced Wednesday to 18 months in jail for sexually assaulting two female patients several decades ago.

"In my opinion, given his age and health, a lengthier period of incarceration would be overly harsh," said Superior Court Justice Nancy Backhouse, who nevertheless found that a jail sentence was necessary.

But Sanchez, 81, won't be placed in custody just yet. He was granted bail shortly after he was sentenced, pending an appeal of his convictions.

"The degree of responsibility attributable to the accused is at the high end of the scale — a deliberate breach of trust by a person of significant power and authority," Backhouse said.

Sanchez initially stood trial on eight counts of sexual assault against six female patients — whose ages ranged from eight to 15 years — for alleged incidents that took place over a period of 50 years. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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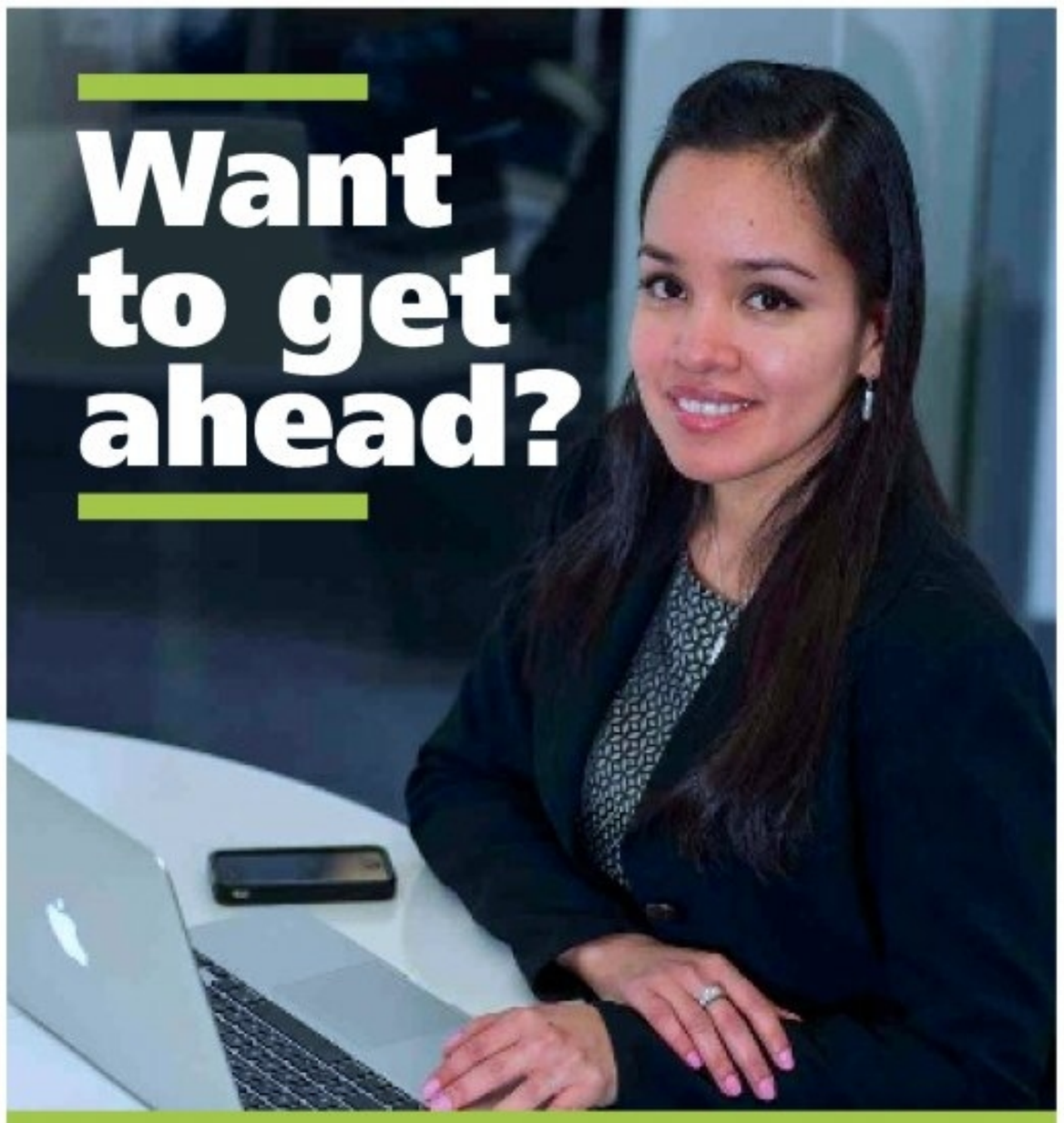

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The life cycle of a TTC tire

Ever wondered about the wheels on our buses — and just how many times they go round and round? The TTC is switching tire suppliers, and while it's not an unusual decision — city agencies often move from one vendor to another in search of savings — it's led to a report that offers an interesting glimpse into the humble life of the rubber that meets our roads.

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

1 The TTC's bus fleet consists of over 1,900 vehicles, and at any given time 11,712 tires are on the road.

2 The average TTC tire drives **120,000** kilometres every year.

3 Each tire weighs 64 kilograms.

4 The 191 Highway 27 Rocket route puts the most mileage on tires, with each vehicle covering **522,000** kilometres a year.

5 The lifespan of a typical tire is **14 months**

6 Under the current contract, each tire costs **$464.76**

7 Winter or summer
the tires are the same. They have an "aggressive" tread and are used all year long.

DID YOU KNOW?
Like many transit agencies, the TTC doesn't actually buy tires. It leases them instead. The tires are supplied by the manufacturer and the TTC is charged based on the number of kilometres travelled per tire. TTC officials say the leasing option is more efficient and reduces costs associated with managing and storing tires.

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That's 22 Deals total since they went to Bus Tour Sept 2014

MELVA & LEON

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2nd Property made $52,865
3rd Property made $100,105
Total of $190,298 in profit in 6 months. Since then...
2 Cash Flow properties at $2,500/mth

JOHN COOKSEY

Attended Bus Tour Sept 2014
4 Properties purchased first 6 mths
1st Flip - profit $5,000
2nd Flip - profit $8,000
1 in construction - estimated profit $80,000
1 Commercial Property (4 commercial spaces, 17 residential) - estimated Cash Flow $34,000/mth
1 Purchased Duplex - $800/mth

Individual results may vary, some are better or worse because it depends on how much time, energy and money an individual puts into their real estate business. © 2016 NVCompanies. All Rights Reserved. Gifts and promotional materials may vary.

Hookah puffing goes up in smoke

HEALTH

Bylaw banning use in lounges, bars takes effect Friday

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The city is taking a soft approach as it ushers in a ban on hookah smoking in bars and lounges.

Thursday is the last day for Torontonians to legally enjoy a hookah puff, as new regulations take effect on Friday. But through June, bylaw enforcement staff will focus on a public-education campaign instead of doling out fines to offenders, Melissa Simone, a spokeswoman for Toronto Public Health, said in a statement.

The city's municipal licensing and standards division has issued letters to 42 hookah businesses across the city reminding them of the ban. And, not everyone is promising to comply.

Theva Sri, co-owner of Shisha&Co. near Yonge and Wellesley, is among them.

"I'm going to be here Friday and hopefully the following days too," he said.

Alex Saddiqi, owner of 70 Down, a hookah lounge and bar in Yorkville, is doing all he can to comply. He's selling off his 15 sets of hookah pipes but will keep the business open as a restaurant and bar.

The changes will be noticed, he said.

"A lot of people do this as their pastime, so the ban takes away from their social life."

Hookah lounges will be forced to change their businesses or close effective Friday under new rules. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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BRAMPTON

Peel police lay 150 charges on 8 men

Peel police have laid more than 150 charges against eight Brampton males after an investigation into 15 gas station and convenience store robberies in the GTA.

The arrests and charges come after a four-month-long investigation dubbed "Project Interlock" that also included Halton and York police as well as the Ontario Provincial Police.

Among the 150 charges are robbery, wearing a disguise in commission of an indictable offence, possession of stolen vehicles and breaches of court orders.

Ashton Gangadeen, 19, was arrested by Halton police on Dec. 30, 2015, and charged with robbery and "numerous other related offences." He was held for a bail hearing on Feb. 19.

Nicholas Armstrong, 19, was arrested Feb. 14 and also charged with robbery and "numerous other related offences."

Six young offenders from Brampton who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act have also been arrested and charged with robbery and "numerous other related offences."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HAVE A TIP?

Anyone with any information in relation to these incidents is asked to contact the Central Robbery Bureau at 905-453-2121, ext. 3410. Information may also be left anonymously by calling Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

SCARBOROUGH

Boy hospitalized after pit bull attack

An eight-year-old boy has serious but not life-threatening injuries after he was attacked by a pit bull in Scarborough Wednesday evening.

Toronto police and paramedics were called to Conlins and Good roads, near Morningside Avenue and Highway 401, around 5:56 p.m. Wednesday after reports of a dog attack.

According to police, an eight-year-old boy was outside with his father when a pit bull began attacking the child, seizing him by the throat and refusing to let go.

Officers arrived and "engaged" the dog, which eventually released the child.

Paramedics took the boy to a local hospital with serious but not life-threatening injuries to his face, buttocks and foot.

Police are trying to identify the dog's owner, who they believe lives in the area.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DOG KILLED

Police shot the dog dead following the attack.

A Toronto police Twitter account said the dog bit an officer during the struggle to get it off the child.

However, the 43 Division staff sergeant later said the officer had simply fallen after the animal lunged towards him.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

No average Joe, this cat is a true survivor

Even if cats have nine lives, Joe can count himself lucky.

Sarnia's now-famous feline was a whisker away from death when he was found by the side of the road after being shot 17 times in the head with a pellet gun. Two years later, Joe has made a remarkable recovery and is set to be featured in the next issue of Modern Cat magazine.

"You wouldn't know he went through any trauma at all," said Jenilyn Sheppard of Lime Hippo Pet Photography, who snapped photos of Joe for the Vancouver-based magazine.

On Feb. 2, 2014, a Good Samaritan brought the badly injured Joe to Sarnia & District SPCA. Shelter staff took him to an animal hospital for treatment. To pay for his hefty vet bill, they put out a call for donations on Facebook.

People were lining up to contribute even before the SPCA opened, said assistant manager Alissa Scarpelli. The campaign raised $33,000 — more than enough to cover the $6,000 vet fee. The difference went to a local animal shelter. Joe underwent several surgeries and lost his right eye. He moved in with a foster family, where he has room to play in a fenced-in "catio" in the backyard, Scarpelli said.

Animal cruelty charges against a man accused of shooting Joe were dropped because there was no longer a reasonable prospect of conviction. But a campaign to get "Justice for Joe" was successful since it shone a light on animal abuse. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Joe, glamourpuss. JENILYN SHEPPARD/MODERN CAT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

From left: SOBDL founders Jaime Dobbs, Erica Campbell, Mangeta Suzanne, Renee Navarro and Jennifer Reinhardt are putting together the first ladies craft beer festival this Friday.
COURTESY PETER OVESNY

Ladies like crafts a lot

LOCAL EVENT

Less knitting, more beer, at women's festival Friday

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

This Friday, there will be plenty of beer — but no boys — at the Evergreen Brick Works.

That's because Canada's first-ever Ladies Craft Beer Festival will take over the premises.

The event, which features beers from 14 different craft breweries, mixes hops and feminism in equal measure.

Organizers say about 700 tickets have already been sold.

The festival is organized by The Society of Beer Drinking Ladies — a group of five Toronto women who work in the brewing industry.

They've been holding monthly "bevies" for the past two years, and Friday's event will be their biggest beer bash to date.

"It's going to be an epic historic event, with great vibe and lady power," said society member Jaime Dobbs.

Dobbs, who works as a sales representative for Great Lakes Brewery, said the festival is way to challenge stereotypes about women and beer.

The brewing industry is very male-dominated, she said, and the event is about providing a safe and supportive space for women to enjoy a pint — or three.

"Everyone's guard is down, and women just enjoy being themselves," she said.

One of Dobbs' pet peeves is hearing certain kinds of beers described as being "girly."

"There's no such a thing. A beer is just a beer for anyone," she said.

Dobbs said the response to the group has been mainly positive, but some have tried to paint the festival as sexist for not allowing men.

However, Dobbs believes comments like that prove exactly why a ladies-only beer space is needed.

"If I ever felt that men needed a space like this, I'd support that idea," she said.

TOAST A CAUSE

Fundraising for women

The festival will feature music and food, as well as the group's Swag Shop where customers can buy SOBDL hoodies, shirts, glasses and other bee-related products.

A portion of proceeds from SOBDL events is donated to the Canadian Women's Foundation.
METRO

Tired? Time for a Schnap

BUSINESS

OCAD student designs dream device for the office napper

Rebecca Williams
Metro | Toronto

If you've ever tried to take a nap with your head perched on your desk, then you probably know how awkward and uncomfortable waking up from a desk-top snooze can be.

One Toronto design student has turned this real life struggle into an idea, and invented a hammock that installs cleverly under your desk, to ensure you get some proper shut-eye.

Nineteen-year-old Aqil Raharjo, a second year student at OCAD, has created the Schnap Desk Hammock — "a nap in a snap" — that allows you to curl up under your desk or table for a quick power nap.

Raharjo was inspired by his fellow students, who were all dealing with long hours while working on projects.

"The idea came up while observing a friend of mine in environmental design who seemed really exhausted and told me that she didn't sleep for two days because she stayed overnight at school," he told Metro in an email.

The hammock hangs from two c-clamps attached to the edge of the table, but you don't have to worry about the safety of your surface — the Schnap also comes with table protectors.

Although Raharjo says the hammock is still in its development and research stage, he hopes to have it available to purchase online, and is looking for members to join his team.

He's already had some testers, including himself — his longest hammock-nap being four hours.

Feeling that 3 p.m. crash? One Toronto student's desk hammock may just be your saviour.
COURTESY AQIL RAHARJO

"It was really comfortable. It was pretty quiet and calming and a perfect place to sleep, most likely because it's located under the table," he said.

While more and more studies have been popping up about the positive influence that napping has on productivity and mental health, workplaces that encourage office naps are fairly rare.

Silicon Valley tech companies like Uber and Google have added pods and chairs specifically for napping to their offices.

Could the Schnap Desk Hammock be the next thing in office health?

HEALTH

Seniors program extended

A program that uses paramedics to help seniors get the care they need in their homes is no longer in jeopardy.

As part of a pilot project, specially trained paramedics make scheduled house calls to seniors, where they perform non-emergency care such as bedside bloodwork, help with medications and connect their patients to other community supports. The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care invested $6 million to increase the reach of the program to nearly two dozen communities across Ontario in 2014.

But with the seed money set to expire on Thursday and the future of the program in question, Health Minister Dr. Eric Hoskins said it will continue.

"In order to ensure that Ontarians continue to have access to these services, I am pleased to say that we are extending this program and continue to work with our partners as we develop a long-term plan that provides these important services to as many Ontarians as possible," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Commission de l'immigration et du statut de réfugié du Canada

Interpretation Service Contractor Solicitation

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Toronto tattoo tales

Five thousand years of tattooing will colour the halls of the Royal Ontario Museum from Saturday, in a new exhibit Tattoos: Ritual. Identity. Obsession. Art. The show, which had rave reviews in Paris and runs through Sept. 5 in Toronto, features tattooed silicone body reproductions, visual art and ancient body-marking tools. So we asked Torontonians to spill on their own ink. LIZ BEDDALL METRO

Greg Langer

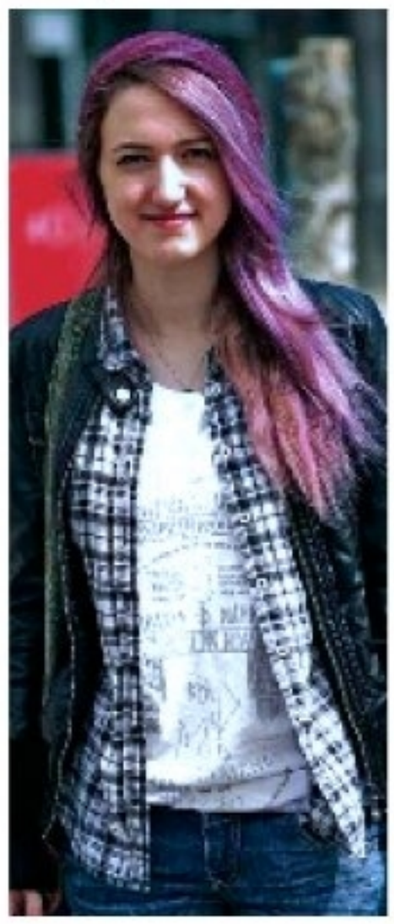
"It was the Leafs playoffs in 2004, when Joe Nieuwendyk scored the Game 7 goal, and I had a bit too much to drink. I fell through a window and I ended up going to the hospital and getting a shard of glass pulled out.

"And while I was super drunk the doctor said, 'Stop laughing because you were so close to dying.' So the glass just went right between the major veins, like a millimeter to the left or right. I woke up the next day and I went out and got this tattoo."

Madeline Smolarz

"I actually had a cancer scare back in January, and I'm only 23 years old. It just made me realize how short life can be and how unexpected certain events in your life can be.

"The open book, it stands for a lot of things — all about new beginnings, starting a new career, an homage to my education — I'm the first person in my family to get a master's degree so this kind of memorialized this key moment in my life."



Alexia Dallarosa

"I have a small equal sign on my wrist. I got it last summer with a bunch of my friends.

"It just symbolizes not only equality of everything but balancing yourself out, how the negative times are going to equal out to the positives.

"You just have to wait and figure out how to make that happen.

"My best friend and cousin got one too. She moved to Scotland for school and we wanted to do something before she left."

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Frankie Vorvis

"The seashell on my ankle is my favourite tattoo. When I was little I always used to be obsessed with the Little Mermaid. I've always loved the ocean and everything to do with the ocean. I've really been wanting this since I was little, and it was just one day I woke up and was like, 'OK, let's do it.'"

Kevin Yateman

"My favourite tattoo is my back tattoo — it's a giant Oni mask with a snake in its mouth. I started getting it about five years ago — we're now at 170 hours – it goes from the top of my neck to the back of my knees. I've always been a huge fan of the Japanese bodysuits and it's a wicked piece of art done by a great artist."

Jason Power

"It's a simple tattoo dedicated to my father because he's always been a hard-working man, but he's found ways to sleep on the job metaphorically. And that's what this reminds me of."

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Nine dead in fire in rural Ontario

FIRST NATIONS

Pikangikum is no stranger to tragedy

Nine members of a family, including three children under five, have died in a house fire in a remote northern Ontario First Nations community that has seen more than its share of human tragedy.

A resident of the Pikangikum First Nation, who did not want to be identified, said three generations of a family died in the blaze that destroyed their home late Tuesday. The resident identified the victims as Dean and Annette Strang, their son Gilbert, their daughter Faith, Faith's three young children and two common-law partners.

Ontario Provincial Police Const. Diana Cole said the fire broke out late Tuesday in the remote community near the Manitoba-Ontario boundary.

The cause of the fire is under investigation and police remain on the scene, Cole said.

Alvin Fiddler, grand chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation which represents First Nations in northern Ontario, said he spoke Wednesday with Pikangikum Chief Dean Owen, who sounded exhausted.

"The shock of losing so many people in one tragic event is overwhelming," said Fiddler.

Fiddler said Pikangikum is "ground zero" when it comes to infrastructure requirements such as housing, access to clean drinking water and the capacity to fight fires.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A smouldering house at the Pikangikum First Nations community on Wednesday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICS AND TODDLERS
PRIME MINISTER'S PLAY DATE Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spends some time with Sarah Nguyen, 3, during a stop at the Mill Woods branch of Edmonton Public Library in Edmonton, Alta, on Wednesday. Trudeau is facing renewed criticism over employment insurance changes, but the prime minister says the issue boils down to "cold, hard mathematics."
CODIE MCLACHLAN/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

UNITED NATIONS

Canada faces tough fights: Experts

Canada faces being reduced to a bit player in a broken world when — and if — it returns to the United Nations Security Council in 2021.

That is one of several sobering messages offered to the Trudeau Liberals by leading international thinkers and players at a foreign policy conference at the University of Ottawa this week.

The Liberals have pledged to re-embrace the world's multilateral institutions, especially the UN and have announced a Canadian run for two-year term on the Security Council that would start in 2021.

While Canada exerted some influence on its last Security Council term in 1999-2000 with then-foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy's human security agenda, things have changed.

Ian Martin, the executive director of the UN Security Council Report, says the days when the temporary members wielded any meaningful influence on the council are long gone.

The Security Council's agenda is now dominated by its permanent five members — the U.S., Britain, France, Russia and China. THE CANADIAN PRESS

QUEBEC

TSB probing fatal crash
The Transportation Safety Board of Canada has begun its investigation into the plane crash that killed ex-cabinet minister Jean Lapierre and six other people.

Lapierre, his wife, three of his siblings and both crew members died Tuesday when the plane crashed.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

CLIMATE CHANGE ANTARCTICA MELTING FASTER THAN EXPECTED
In this January 2015 photo, Gentoo penguins stand on rocks near the Chilean station Bernardo O'Higgins in Antarctica. Warmer air, less frigid water and gravity may combine to make parts of Antarctica's western ice sheet melt far faster than scientists had thought, raising sea levels much more than expected by the end of the century, according to a new study. In a worst-case scenario, the fast melting could raise sea levels in 2100 by 46 to 86 centimetres. Even if countries control heat-trapping gases at the moderate levels, it would still mean seas eight to 31 centimetres higher than have been forecast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

PM's information on attacker's laptop

BRUSSELS

Security around Charles Michel heightened

A laptop used by one of the Brussels bombers contained images of the Belgian prime minister's home and office, an official said Wednesday, heightening fears after last week's attacks on the airport and subway system.

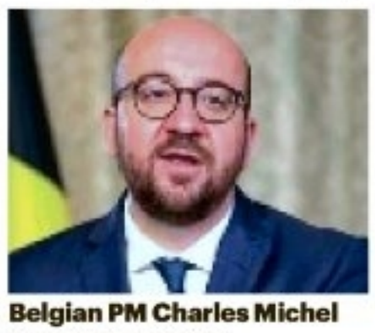
Security around Prime Minister Charles Michel has increased since the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris and in Brussels last week. Michel also has had several unspecified death threats over the past years, the official said.

A laptop found near the hideout of the suspects of the March 22 airport bombing first gained notoriety because it contained a sort of will of suicide bomber Ibrahim El Bakraoui, in which he spoke of being "in a haste" and "no longer know(ing) what to do."

The computer was also "full of stuff" on many locations around Brussels in information garnered from the Internet, said an official linked to the investigation.

The official, who asked not to be identified because the investigation is ongoing, said that at the moment there were "absolutely no" specific indications that Michel was under threat from the attackers.

In propaganda material distributed Tuesday, Daesh described the Brussels attacks as part of "a war against all their tyrants and pagans; a war against secularism." The material showed a still of surveillance footage showing the two airport bombers. The attacker who escaped with his life, wearing a dark hat, was cropped out.



Belgian PM Charles Michel
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In all, 32 people died in the attacks on Brussels international airport and the Maelbeek subway station and 87 remained in hospital. Three attackers were killed when their bombs exploded and police are looking for at least one more suspect.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIGRANT CRISIS

UN chief urges nations to let in more refugees
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged governments around the world Wednesday to let in more people from Syria, as the global body tries to find new homes for almost half a million people who have fled the war-torn country.

Ban's appeal came as Europe is striving to halt the unchecked flow of migrants across the Mediterranean, as the number of people passing through rises with the warm weather.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Clinton aims to end Sanders' campaign

Hillary Clinton's campaign aims to effectively end the Democratic primaries against Bernie Sanders by early May. But first she needs to navigate tricky contests in Wisconsin and her home state of New York.

Clinton enters April with a big delegate lead and insider support among Democrats crucial to the nomination. But Sanders is pointing to victories in five of the past six states holding contests and views Wisconsin as a home for the progressive causes he has long supported.

"We are on a roll. Our campaign has momentum," Sanders told a crowd of about 4,000 Tuesday night in Milwaukee.

A win by Sanders there next week would put pressure on Clinton to deliver in New York, which she represented in the Senate. Returning to New York ahead of the state's April 19 primary, Clinton campaigned at Harlem's famed Apollo Theater and unveiled a new television ad taking on Republican Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies and violence at some of his rallies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sharing economy needs new rules

REGULATION

Report says there is no single solution to problem

As the sharing economy grows in popularity, governments must look at bringing in new regulations, and at the same time, update rules for existing businesses, a new report says.

"The sharing economy is much broader than just Uber or Airbnb, though the discussion often gets narrowed down to those two companies," said Joeri van den Steenhoven, director of MaRS Solutions Lab, which produced the report, Shifting Perspectives: Redesigning Regulation for the Sharing Economy.

"It should be seen as an opportunity to create more effective regulation and better public value for its citizens," he said, noting governments should not just think of the sharing economy as something to respond to, but rather build a strategy that nurtures it.

The 100-page report results from research as well as in-depth interviews with 136 individuals ranging from taxi drivers, UberX drivers, hotel managers and Airbnb hosts.

While sharing economy companies are disrupting markets, the report emphasized the need to look at revising existing regulations, which may be reducing the administrative burden faced by existing operators.

That means looking at easing some of the rules and regulations that taxi drivers face, including a 17 days of training. By contrast, UberX drivers often only watch a company-produced video.

"It's not just about adding more rules, but revisiting the regulations, making them more effective, drive the public value that we want," van den Steenhoven said. But the report also cautions that there is no single solution to a complex problem, that cities should play a lead role, with the province ensuring a certain degree of harmonization.

"We encourage governments to keep on learning when they are putting in place new regulations, and where possible, to actively experiment," the report says.

The report clearly outlines the need for regulations, but van den Steenhoven cautioned that too many rules can stifle innovation, so cities need to create an environment that can allow new businesses and ideas can thrive.

The report added regulation is always a reflection of what is happening in society. "It constantly has to catch up with a world that is always changing, and there is nothing wrong with that," it said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **Traditional approaches to regulation no longer fit and the consequences of new regulation are largely unknown.** Report

While sharing economy companies are disrupting markets, a new report emphasizes the need to look at revising existing regulations. PHOTOS: ISTOCK & TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COMPETITIVENESS

Canada second in labour costs

Accounting giant KPMG says Canada has proven to be second most competitive market in a comparison test of 10 leading industrial countries.

In its report, KPMG says Canada lags only behind Mexico when it comes to how little businesses have to pay for labour, facilities, transportation and taxes.

The report compared the competitiveness of a number of western countries along with Australia and Japan. It found that a high U.S. dollar has helped Canada stay affordable.

When it comes to corporate income taxes, it found that Canada, the U.K. and the Netherlands had the lowest rates overall due to tax incentives to support high-tech and research and development.

KPMG also looked at the competitiveness of more than 100 cities worldwide. It ranked Fredericton, N.B., as the most cost-effective city in Canada due to low labour costs and continued low costs for property leases.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, March 31, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD **THE FORD FUNERAL**

THE LAST WORD ON A LEGACY

Part funeral, part parade, part political rally — Rob Ford's sendoff brought the press, public and political class together in a show of deference and respect that felt no less peculiar for being entirely appropriate. Thus, in his final act, **the inimitable ex-mayor managed to unite a city he once divided.**

Death is strange even under the most ordinary of circumstances, but when the dead is Rob Ford, it is a spectacle stranger than most.

Since Ford succumbed to cancer last week, at only 46 years old, Toronto's most outlandish and controversial political figure has received the warmest treatment of his embattled life. That may be fitting, but it also feels exceedingly odd.

Toronto media — almost uniformly combative by the end of Ford's term — has become the picture of politeness.

City hall — home to some of Ford's most cutting critics — extended the very rare honour of hosting a two-day public visitation with Ford's body lying in repose in a Toronto-flag-draped casket (surprisingly regular in size, given his personality and stature).

Ford Nation and its fringes lined up by the hundreds for hours to pass by the dead former mayor, who won their deep adoration through a dogged ground game, off-colour politics and the redemption story that was his battle with substance abuse. And they came again in droves on Wednesday morning for the procession and funeral.

Waiting outside city hall, the crowd off-kilter renditions of Amazing Grace, When the Saints Go Marching In, and Bob Marley's One Love — a musical message out of keeping with Ford's tenure as mayor, but one that suits exactly this city's sendoff. I thought I heard them sing "One love, One Ford…" Though I can't be sure.

When Renata, Ford's widow, and children arrived, the crowd let out a cheer worthy of a celebrity. "We love you, Renata!" they yelled. She, looking somewhat shocked, but grateful, blew the crowd a kiss with both hands.

One day you're a national embarrassment, and the next day you're eulogized by a former premier as 'Canada's mayor'

Clockwise from left: A Ford supporter looks on at Wednesday's funeral procession; Ford's widow Renata flanked by her children, cries next to her husband's casket; Ford's hearse makes its way down through downtown Toronto. LANCE MACMILLAN/FOR METRO; NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS; BERNARD WEIL/TORONTO STAR

An hour later, when Ford's casket exited city hall, Ford Nation again swelled with clapping and cheers. A security guard charged with keeping the taxpayers at bay wiped away a tear. When I later asked her if she had been crying, her eyes welled and she smiled, but wouldn't say.

"We love you, Doug!" someone yelled, and everyone ignored the city councillors who followed behind him. "They should have had the voters go before (the councillors), the way they treated him," one woman scoffed. And indeed, as the procession got moving, the public overpowered security guards and forced their way into line, waving Rob Ford flags and shouting, "Best mayor ever!"

The security team could only shrug. "Well, at least you tried," one city official said. They should have known there's no holding back Ford Nation.

It was part funeral procession, part parade, part political rally that wound through the blocked-off downtown streets. The bagpipes were too far ahead to be heard by the Fords, plodding behind the hearse, and so the raucous cheers from hundreds of followers provided their soundtrack. At times, it had Doug Ford and his family grinning. Later, he fought back tears during his funeral speech, promising to "continue respecting taxpayers."

That was after Ford's daughter told church mourners that her father, "an amazing dad," was now "mayor of heaven" — underlining that even for a grieving daughter, there is no separating Rob Ford from Rob Ford. There wasn't in life, and there isn't in death.

Along the procession route, a group of onlookers appeared to be taken in more by the spectacle's power than by grief. "Have mercy on us all," one remarked before walking off, an invocation that was difficult to parse. Mercy for those feeling apocalyptic about what Ford Nation indicates about our politics? Or mercy for those who feel implicated by how Ford was maligned when he was alive?

Bringing up the rear was a young white man in a ballcap and doo-rag, dragging a speaker on wheels blasting '90's rappers UGK's One Day: "So I'm a take care of my business on the smooth tip/Watch my back sellin' crack and pack two clips/… It's a trip you're here today but the next day you're gone."

Indeed. One day you're a national embarrassment, and the next day you're eulogized by a former premier during mass at St. James Cathedral as "Canada's mayor," with two archbishops on hand and a world-renowned organist.

One reporter later saw fit to mention that he saw not a single protester all day. But of course he didn't. Rob Ford has had the last word on his legacy. And it's one love.

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Deadpool is now the highest grossing R-rated film in history

Navigating the new world of sex

INTERVIEW

Journalist pens book based on talks with young women

Over the course of roughly three years, journalist Peggy Orenstein interviewed more than 70 young women, along with psychologists, academics and other experts, about the sexual landscape facing girls today.

Those frank discussions — on everything from hookup culture to sexting — formed the basis for her latest book, Girls & Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape. It's an eye-opening look at how modern young women view intimacy, relationships and their own bodies.

Here, Orenstein talks about her findings from her home in Berkeley, Calif.

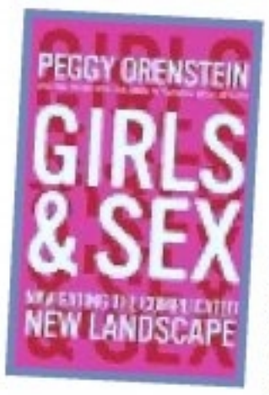
What was your big takeaway from all that research?
I went into it as a journalist, author and a parent. The biggest thing that I took away was the necessity of normalizing discussions of sexuality with your kids as a parent, and not putting it into a special box or category — not having "The Talk," but integrating the broad discussion of sexuality and intimacy and pleasure and all of that into everyday conversation.

Did anything surprise you?
One of the big things that surprised me is how it had become the accepted pathway to a relationship for kids — you start with a hookup, the last thing you do is date. I wasn't aware of that.

Modern girls have strong role models. But this one quote from a girl you spoke to jumped out at me: "I guess no one ever told me that the strong female image also applies to sex."
She had just said that her mother and grandmother were these incredibly powerful women, then said women are supposed to be deferential and agreeable when it comes to oral sex. If I had been interviewing these women about their public lives, their time in school, their plans and dreams and ideas, I would've come away inspired. But we haven't extended that to their intimate lives, even while culture has become more sexually explicit. That's a recipe for a lack of satisfaction — and victimization — in girls.

What can parents do to help their daughters — and sons — understand the world of sex and intimacy?
Talk to our children about sexual autonomy, ethics, reciprocity. When we talk about anatomy, we never talk about the outside of a girl's body. We don't tell them about it as parents, we don't tell them about it school, then we expect them to go into sexual encounters. We set them up to think boys are the only ones who take pleasure in sex, that it's not about women.

Many progressive parents are good about talking about risk, danger and consent. They've talked about birth control and disease protection, that no means no and yes means yes. But they haven't talked about joy, pleasure and entitlement. They haven't talked about masturbation. We don't tell girls what a clitoris is, and that it's there to make good feelings.



Girls ask all the time: "I've heard girls have orgasms, but how does that happen?" Boys sure know. We tell boys puberty is defined by erections, but girls' puberty is about periods and unwanted pregnancy.

How do you think this should translate to sex ed in schools?
I know there's controversy about (Canadian) sexual education classes, but what they're doing is right. Explicit conversations about pleasure, masturbation, ethics, treating each other well — actually help young women make choices that they're happier with. It results in less regret, less shame and less unwanted behaviour. In the U.S., we know that abstinence education is a disaster. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Peggy Orenstein interviewed more than 70 young women for her new book. CONTRIBUTED

Jessica Knoll. HANDOUT

OPEN LETTER

Author reveals rape in her novel came from her life

The author of the bestselling novel Luckiest Girl Alive posted an essay online Tuesday saying that the gang rape in high school her character suffered was based on an assault in her own life.

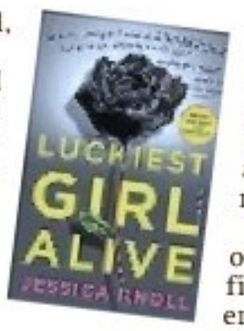
Jessica Knoll, writing on a website for young women that's co-managed by Lena Dunham, said that since the book came out last year she has deflected questions about similarities between herself and the protagonist, TifAni.

"I've been running and I've been ducking and I've been dodging because I'm scared," she wrote on lennyletter.com.

"I'm scared people won't call what happened to me rape because for a long time, no one did. But as I gear up for my paperback tour, and as I brace myself for the women who ask me, in nervous, brave tones, what I meant by my dedication, What do I know?

"I've come to a simple, powerful revelation: everyone is calling it rape now. There's no reason to cover my head. There's no reason I shouldn't say what I know."

Knoll, a former editor at Cosmopolitan, wrote in her essay that readers had been curious about the book's dedication: "To all the TifAni FaNellis of the world, I know."



"It means I know what it's like to not belong, I waffle in response to readers, usually women whose albatrosses I can sense, just as they sense mine," she said. "What I don't add: I know what it's like to shut down and power through, to have no other choice than to pretend to be OK. I am a savant of survivor mode."

Knoll's novel has been optioned for a feature film, with Reese Witherspoon expected to produce. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parties aplenty in coming-of-age tale

MEMOIR

Rob Spillman reflects on his experiences in East Berlin

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Last week, a new museum opened in Germany, dedicated to those who lived under the shadow of the Berlin Wall. The first 1,000 visitors to the Wall Museum received a small souvenir chunk from the concrete structure, a kitschy token of the 155-kilometre-long barrier that physically divided the city from its construction in 1961 to its eventual fall in 1989.

The Berlin Wall is more than just a Cold War relic or tourist destination for Rob Spillman.

The co-founding editor of influential New York literary magazine Tin House spent much of his formative years in West Berlin. Restless and filled with romantic idealism, 25-year-old Spillman returned to the city just months after the Wall came down, seeking adventure, writerly purpose and bohemian camaraderie. He shares his youthful experiences in his new memoir, All Tomorrow's Parties, a captivating coming-of-age story and snapshot of a city in flux.

Spillman, the German-born son of divorced American opera musicians, did not have a typical upbringing.

Instead of Little League or Boy Scout camp, he spent his youth immersed in theatre, hanging out at his father's rehearsals and performances. Young Spillman knew he wanted an artistic life — and even performed in operas as a kid — but struggled with his own identity and dark feelings of being an outsider amongst free spirits, only finding solace among his books.

"I knew I wanted to be creative," he says, "being surrounded by creative people all my life, but I didn't feel creative. Growing up surrounded by musicians and people who were living for their art definitely shaped the way I look at the world."

At the age of 25, Spillman was back in the U.S. working as a freelance writer along with his new wife, fellow author Elissa Schappell, when news of the Berlin Wall's fall dominated international news. Questioning whether his idealized artistic life could include marriage and a steady job, he convinced Schappell to move to Germany, and that's when All Tomorrow's Parties becomes a Hunter S. Thompson-esque journey.

Fuelled on absinthe from a Portuguese dive bar, the two eventually settle in East Berlin, a city in still in limbo under some kind of Mad Max rule as riot police battle with both skinheads and anarchist settlers. Laundromats don't exist yet, soup kitchens double as bars, and the streets are filled with old furniture, abandoned for newly available Western goods.

Despite his journalist credentials, Spillman didn't write about this unique experience at the time.

"I had this delusional notion that if I didn't write about it, it would keep going, the magic would not go away," he says.

"Not the most logical thought I had, but that was the feeling when I was there."

Spillman calls writing All Tomorrow's Parties a "10-year odyssey" in which he tried to be as "honest and empathetic as possible."

He imagined his audience to be his teenage self, or someone struggling with the same internal battles.

"I was writing the book not necessarily for people I know, but for the lost people out there who are adrift now," says Spillman.

"When I was 16, 18, a book saved my life, reading other people's narratives, either fiction or non-fiction was pivotal for me. It showed there was a greater world out there, and I wasn't alone."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Rob Spillman's new book is called All Tomorrow's Parties.
FOSTER MICKEY

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Home renos to boost your resale value

SELLING YOUR HOME

Start in the kitchen and work your way out

Lisa Evans

A renovated kitchen can yield a return on investment of 50 per cent or more. ISTOCK

Investing in curb appeal can do a lot to boost your home's value — it's people's first impression of your house. ISTOCK

If you're renovating your home with an eye to selling, it's wise to focus on the renos that will yield top dollar from potential buyers.

According to Elli Davis, a real-estate agent with Royal LePage, there are three main areas of the home where a reno can boost the asking price:

Kitchens and bathrooms

Davis says a renovated kitchen or bathroom can yield a return on investment of 50 per cent or more. They're the most-used rooms in the house, and many buyers seek out renovated kitchens and bathrooms simply because they don't want the cost and inconvenience of renovating them after they've moved in.

When renovating these rooms to sell, however, Davis recommends seeking the advice of a professional and choosing finishes that will appeal to a wide audience, not just your own taste.

"I've seen hot-pink kitchen cupboards or dark-blue cupboards," she says. "When you pick a colour that's not for everybody, it makes the audience smaller." Neutral tones are the smartest choice. "You can use bold colours in your towels and accessories but keep the tiles [and cabinets] light and bright," says Davis. It's also important to keep the height of the countertop and cupboards comfortable for the average person. Davis has seen homes with cupboards that only someone six feet tall can reach. "Don't think only of yourself but the average buyer and what they might want," she says.

Family-room additions

If your property has room for growth, Davis says a family-room addition is a wise investment.

"The hub of the house is usually the kitchen and family room," she says. One way to do this is by switching to an open-concept kitchen and living-room space, which fits with the desire of many modern families for a home that reflects a more casual lifestyle. An additional living space on the main floor yields a higher return on investment than a finished basement, according to Davis.

"Not everybody uses a basement," she says.

Landscaping

Investing in curb appeal can do a lot to boost your home's value in the eyes of potential buyers.

"It's people's first impression of your house," Davis says. A well-landscaped yard shows pride of ownership. Clean up your front yard, perhaps creating a pathway to the front door to make buyers feel welcome. Bring colour to your home's exterior by adding potted plants or even painting the front door. Creating a backyard deck also adds to your home's living space and is a great selling feature.

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Carry the colours of the season indoors by working them into your home decor in cushions, throws, accent pieces and artwork. ISTOCK

Decor that puts spring in your home

REFRESH YOUR HOME

Spring touches will impress potential home buyers

Lisa Evans

Spring has finally sprung, bringing with it new opportunities for sellers to breathe some spring life into their homes to persuade potential buyers. Decorating your home with vibrant spring colours not only brightens up the space but your mood — and those of potential buyers. Toronto Interior Designer Mimi Pineau says incorporating the colours of the season in your home can help you sell it faster.

"In spring, everything feels very energized and fresh and you want your home to reflect that," she says. Here are four easy ways to breathe spring life into your home:

Get rid of clutter

Spring is a great time to declutter. Sorting through all the things you've accumulated over the winter months and purging things you no longer need gives your home that airy feeling of spring and makes sure potential buyers don't get distracted by piles of paper or toys.

Bring in spring colours

Carry the colours of the season indoors by working them into your home decor in cushions, throws, accent pieces and artwork. Head to a home-design store to see what colours are in season and pick up several pieces in your chosen colour.

"You want to make sure there's a bit of that colour at different points of the room," says Pineau. When selling your home, Pineau recommends choosing colours that are universally appealing, such as greens, blues and yellows. "Colours like pink, that can be perceived as feminine, can throw some buyers off," she says.

Bring the outdoors in

As the trees outdoors start to turn green, add some greenery to your interior space as well. Plant an herb garden on your windowsill or bring in bouquets of brightly coloured tulips.

"They're very nice to look at and they make you really feel the season," says Pineau.

Swap textures

While heavy wool pillows and throws made your home warm and cozy in the winter, spring calls for lighter textures. Swap your heavy fabrics for breezy linens. You may also want to change up your heavy duvet for a lighter bedspread.

"White bed linens are always in style and you can add some accent cushions to change with the seasons," says Pineau. Don't forget to fluff up your pillows! "That breathes a bit of extra life and luxury," says Pineau.

A window into the human condition

IT'S COMPLICATED

We need Bible and science for richer life, author says

Joel M. Hoffman has done a lot of thinking about what the Bible actually says. Recently Torstar News Service talked to him about his book, The Bible Doesn't Say That, 40 Biblical Mistranslations, Misconceptions and Other Misunderstandings. Did Adam and Eve really eat an apple when they took fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Does Genesis contradict evolution? Does the New Testament replace justice from the Old Testament with love? Our conversation has been edited for length.

Noah and the ark is just one of the stories Joel H. Hoffman talks about in his book The Bible Doesn't Say That. ISTOCK

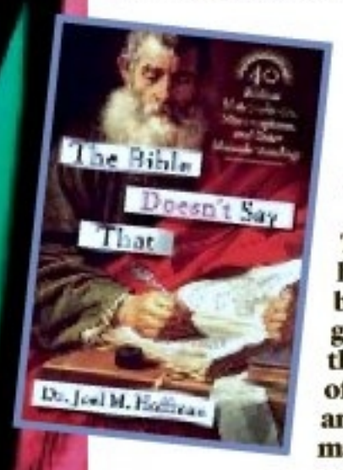
There are two versions of the creation myth. In one, Eve was formed from Adam's rib (Genesis, chapter 2, verses 21-22). In an earlier telling, Eve and Adam were created at the same time in God's image, (Genesis, chapter 1, verse 27).

The different stories teach us different things about the nature of our lives. They are equally valid. According to one story, Eve was created so Adam wouldn't be alone. The other story teaches us that men and women are equal, they were both made in God's image and created on an equal footing.

Why do we blindly accept all these Bible stories — the flood and Noah's ark, for instance? How could every animal on Earth fit into that tiny ark?

It wasn't meant to be history. Even a cursory examination points out the numerous flaws in the story. It was meant to teach us things about the world. The early part of Genesis was designed to tell us how the world got to be the way it is. Things didn't work out so well the first time God created Earth. There were angels who came down and had mated with human women and fathered giants. And then there was wickedness on Earth.

God thought he had to start again. The flood story was about that. Noah is certainly a flawed character but the power of the Bible is in the way it speaks to the real human condition, not the idealized human condition. Even our heroes are flawed. You see it with Abraham, too. Going back to Noah, it raises the question of what does it mean to be righteous? Do you have to be perfect to be righteous or is perfection too much to ask for?



The Jews have often been targeted as the slayers of Christ and it has made them scapegoats and worse. But you point out there isn't a clear sense of who was responsible for the Crucifixion.

In terms of who killed Christ, some things are clear. It was not all of the Jews but there were some Jews involved. It is equally clear there were some Romans involved. As with most decisions at this level, the conversations took place in back channels. No minutes were kept so we don't know the details of how this decision was made.

> **The Bible wasn't meant to convey facts. Facts take a backseat to understanding the human condition.**
> Author Joel M. Hoffman

The scapegoating of the Jews has less to do with the Jews' reputation for killing Christ. There are some people who were anti-Semitic and this was a fine place to hang their hat. Christ had to die to make Christian theology work. Christ could not die if there were no sins. Christ could have stopped this and he chose not to.

What about the virgin birth? How is it possible for Mary to get pregnant without having sexual intercourse with a man? Maybe she was just an innocent who didn't know what was happening?

Let me think carefully about the answer. I don't think it is my place to judge what the text is saying. Just understanding what the ancient text of the New Testament says involves peeling back a whole lot of grime that has accumulated in the form of misinterpretation over the past 2,000 years. The text says Jesus was born of a virgin birth. Now you can choose to believe it or not.

But you have to understand the Bible wasn't meant to convey facts. Facts take a back seat to understanding the human condition. It teaches us how we are supposed to treat each other and what we are all doing here. Today we focus on science and we shove it into everything we do.

There are creationists in the United States who think the Bible story should be taught instead of Darwin's theory of evolution.

Creationists have misunderstood the Bible's role. It was never intended to compete with science and there are two different stories of creation. Many people are grappling with how to live life in the scientific era. Two unfortunate results of that are hyper-fundamentalists who literally believe in every word of the Bible or professional atheists who don't believe a word and think science should replace the Bible. You have a much richer life if you have both the Bible and science.

The Tea Party must think you are a heretic.

I lecture frequently throughout the Bible Belt and the reception is overwhelmingly positive. My experience is that a lot of people want to know what the Bible says before it was misinterpreted. The only negative feedback I got was from a group of Southern Baptists who preached against me because I dared to suggest that men and women were supposed to be equal in the Bible.

The Bible is a lot like a newspaper. There is news, commentary, reviews and comics. It doesn't mean there is something wrong with the newspaper. Certainly there are contradictions in the Bible but the Bible is meant to show that life is complicated. There are many interpretations and sides.

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Three Musketeers gets a modern twist

YOUTUBE

Grads turn Dumas tale into LGBT sorority story

When authors such as Jane Austen, Alexandre Dumas and William Shakespeare sat down to pen the pieces that would make them household names, there was no Internet and certainly no such thing as video blogging.

But do a few Google searches today and you'll find their famous characters alive on YouTube, with some modern twists that are turning a whole new generation into lovers of classic literature.

To thank for the renewed interest in tales that teachers usually have to prod their students to read are literary web series — videos that have reimagined Romeo and Juliet as university students or Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre as a nanny enrolled in nursing school.

And the newest to join the phenomenon hails from Toronto, where Corus Entertainment and a pack of recent university graduates are toning down the swashbuckling in Dumas' The Three Musketeers to make the book's prolific adventurers into modern-day LGBT sorority girls.

Called All For One, their online series releases episodes three times a week on ABC Spark and YouTube for a total of 30 episodes in all, running so far at about 5 minutes each.

It debuted in early March, but already creator Sarah Shelson says, "We're seeing a few viewers say they're picking up the book to read along or if they've already read it, a few are telling others to get out there and grab it to read as they watch."

The trend of using the web to let updated literary characters talk directly to the camera in video-diary styled episodes spanning only a few minutes each grew out of The Lizzie Bennet Diaries, a video blog series that updated Austen's Pride and Prejudice, created by Pemberley Digital in 2012.

While its message was much the same as Austen's original — casting Bennett as a debt-ridden grad student who lives with a mother so eager to see her daughter settled down that she prints the book's famous first line "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife," on a T-shirt — it managed to attract a modern audience by doing away with the book's dated language, pomp and circumstance. When it aired on YouTube, The Lizzie Bennet Diaries received millions of hits and won an Emmy for original interactive programming.

Lauren Evans and Sarah Shelson, right, are the producers behind All For One. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Two years later, Pemberley Digital, helped Shelson launch The March Family Letters — a web series that transplanted the famous sisters from Louisa May Alcott's Little Women into a 21st century, Toronto apartment.

"I had loved the story since I was little," said Shelson, whose mom originally encouraged her to read the book.

The series was strung together as "a labour of love" with only passion, some support from Ryerson University and a budget of less than $50,000.

But that's part of the beauty of the medium and why it's expanding. "All you really need is a book that you care about and that is (available) for use, a camera … and the need to create a good story," says Lauren Evans, Shelson's co-producer.

> **"The heart of the story is there, but we take some liberties to make it a fun romp of a series**
> Lauren Evans, co-producer
> All For One

But crafting classic characters with a modern twist who mimic their audience is a double-edged sword; some viewers will always "have their own attachments to and love for" the originals, says Shelson.

That's why Aramis (Ariana) is still ambitious, Athos (Alex) is as secretive as ever and Porthos (Portia) remains the extrovert. And as with the original, they must rise up and fight a powerful body: the school's student union.

"The heart of the story is there, but we take some liberties to make it a fun romp of a series," Evans says. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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REVIEW

Doctor Who is back in comics

The Fourth Doctor
BY: Gordon Rennie, Emma Beeby and Brian Williamson
PUBLISHER: Titan Comics

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

The scarf. The hat. The curly hair. The bag of jelly babies. The manic smile.

Doctor Who may have had a hugely successful TV reboot, but for many fans the definitive Doctor is the fourth one, portrayed by Tom Baker from 1974 to 1981.

Now Baker's take on the regenerating, irascible, time-travelling alien is back in comics, with part one of the five-part Gaze of the Medusa out this week.

It's like the best of the TV show: a creepy story set in Victorian England, and the Doctor's companion is the incomparable Sarah Jane Smith. This is the good stuff, and it really is creepy.

The creators are channelling some of the best of 1970s Doctor Who with the setting, the twists and the action-oriented approach.

If you prefer books to floppies, there are dozens of collections available from Titan. For help narrowing it down, look for the writing of Paul Cornell, Al Ewing or Robbie Morrison characters, and the art of Simon Fraser.

The other books cover Doctors Eight to Twelve, which is all the "New Who" plus the version that only had a TV movie and wasn't picked up for an ongoing show, but it's a special pleasure to see Four return.

He was always the best.

BOOKS

Archie Volume 1
BY: Mark Waid, Fiona Staples, Annie Wu and Veronica Fish
PUBLISHER: Archie Comics

The old gang is back, still as sassy as ever, but somehow... more fresh.

It's the new Riverdale, rebooted and collected in trade paperback.

And it's really fun. It may be an update, but the essential parts are there. Archie is a klutz, Jughead won't stop eating, Betty is impossibly nice and Veronica is possibly a demon given human form.

If you like high school comedy, with a little romance, this is worth a look. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

New doc examines debts and our pets

Families can spend up to $20,000 or more for emergency vet bills. CONTRIBUTED

INVESTIGATION

CBC looks at high cost of keeping animals healthy

When it comes to treating an ailing pet, Toronto veterinarian Dr. Michael Ethier is the first to admit it can get expensive.

As director of emergency and critical care medicine at the Toronto Veterinary Emergency Hospital, he's seen families spend up to $20,000 on their animals.

It may be a hard figure to swallow, but when you break down the costs — from a weeks-long stay in an intensive care unit to surgery and perhaps transfusions or MRIs — it makes sense, he adds.

With Canada's publicly funded health-care system, most people don't realize the exact costs involved in medical treatment, both for humans and animals.

Ethier is hoping the documentary Pets, Vets & Debts, making its world premiere on CBC-TV's The Nature of Things on Thursday, will help clear up such misconceptions.

"There's not a person in veterinary medicine, especially within specialty referral medicine, that will ever say to someone it's not expensive to treat severely ill or complex pets," says Ethier, who appears in the doc.

"What we're hoping is that people understand why it costs more and that sure, in the ideal world we would love that this was similar to human medicine, where there weren't costs passed on to the family members."

Liam O'Rinn wrote and directed the film, which looks at the business of veterinary care and the latest medical advancements for animals, from stem cell transplants to heart stents and 3D printed prosthetics.

According to the doc, Canadians collectively spend more than $2.25 billion annually on vet bills. For Americans, that number is $14 billion.

The doc also looks at the cost of pet insurance, which it says most Canadians don't have.

"Looking into insurance and getting educated on insurance I think is a huge benefit for most families," says Ethier.

"Unless you're in a position to be fiscally responsible and put money aside either before you get your first pet or accumulated over the years of the pet and hope that its illness happens later on where you've developed that nest egg."

$2.25 billion
The amount Canadians collectively spend annually on veterinary bills.

Ethier notes that having an animal is like buying a house or having children: It's a long-term commitment with guaranteed costs over its life span.

"You're not going to get around it," he says. "It's a biological entity. There are going to be things that need to be addressed, whether it's preventatively or therapeutically to fix problems."

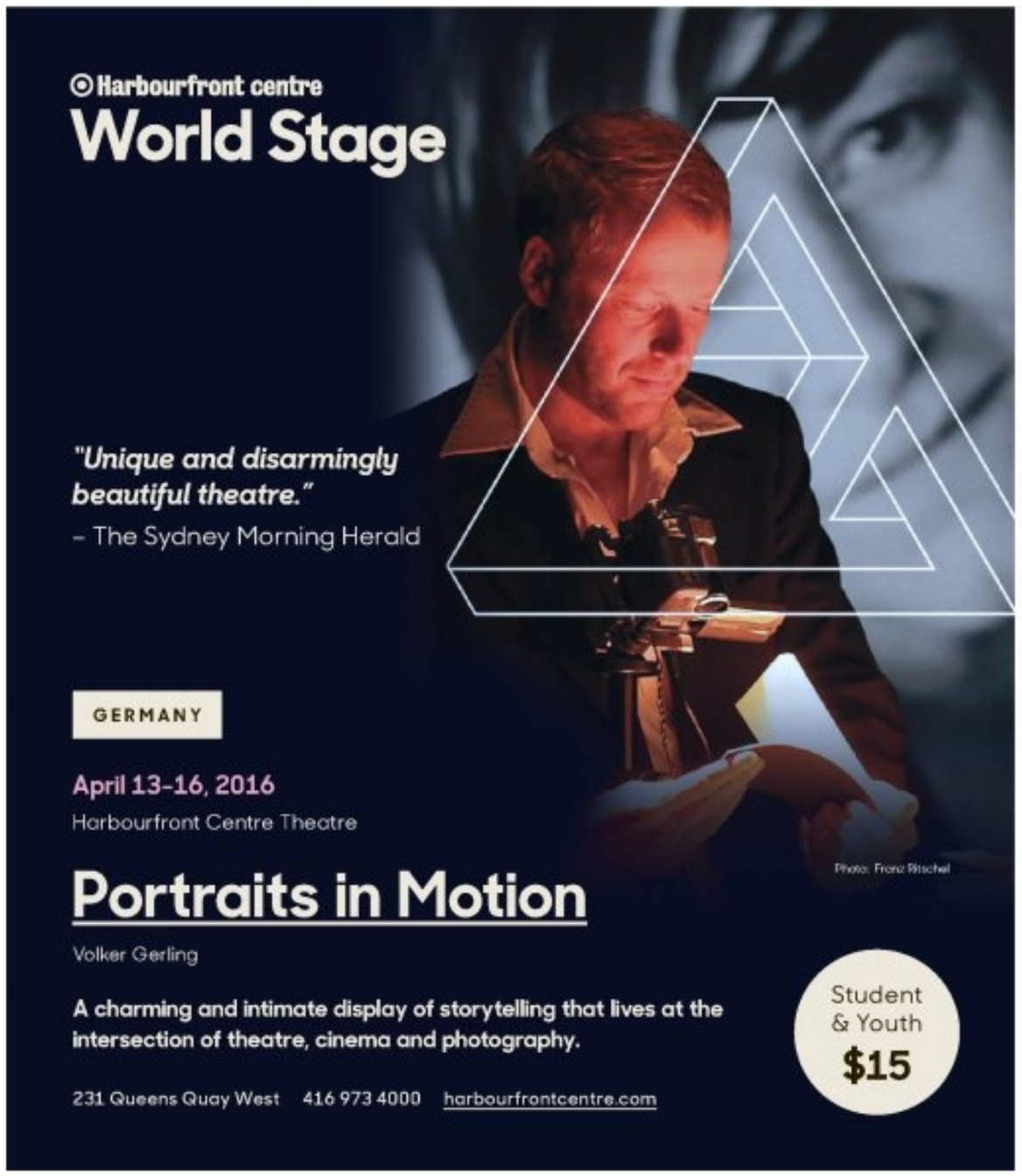
Pet owners should also understand that health-care costs for pets will differ according to the level of treatment.

For instance, prices are generally higher at a specialty hospital and when an animal needs an emergency surgery at odd hours.

When a pet owner is unable to pay for treatment, they can either have the animal euthanized or surrender it to a local shelter, provided the prognosis is good.

"That's the biggest frustration for us and for our staff is when we know we can fix an animal, it's just unfortunately that family doesn't have the resources to do it," says Ethier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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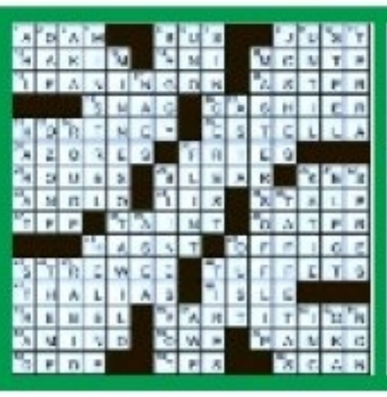

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Bonding over The Walking Dead

TREND

Families find quality time in an unlikely source

Michelle Fiala says her 14-year-old daughter, Laura, is fine watching humans run for their lives from snarling, flesh-eating zombies on AMC's The Walking Dead, but if one of the characters on the show vomits, the teen has to look away.

"My youngest has a real thing about seeing people vomit," she said in a recent interview from St Louis, Mo. "She's got a real phobia about that. She's totally fine when they're stabbing zombies in the head or there's fake blood flying or the zombies are eating people, but when (a character) Denise leaned over and threw up. ... she had to turn away. She couldn't handle that."

Fiala also watches the hit AMC show, airing its season six finale Sunday, with her 16-year-old daughter Emma.

The three discovered it on Netflix about a month ago and have binged to catch up to real time.

"It's so outside of what would be my usual genre for television," said Fiala. "I came home from work one day and my kids were sitting on the couch watching like, 'You have to come watch this!" I was sucked in pretty immediately. You get sucked in by the characters. We have our favourites. It surprises me still that I'm that into it."

Since TV's invention, families have gathered around to watch shows like The Ed Sullivan Show, The Carol Burnett Show, American Idol and now relatives are coming together to watch humans battle a zombie apocalypse on the hit AMC series.

Ericka Calcagno, centre and her daughter Gina Binder and son Jean-Luc Binder all watch The Walking Dead together. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **The Walking Dead is like the new Family Ties, OK?**
> Danai Gurira who plays Michonne on the show

Ericka Calcagno of Farmington Hills, Mich., looks forward to watching the show with her 12-year-old daughter, Gina, and son Jean-Luc, who is 9.

She says her husband first introduced her to the series and her kids were intrigued by their conversations about it.

"I was a little skeptical at first if it was too much but we watched the first season during the day. Since then we always watch together and discuss it constantly."

They're spirited in their devotion and have even have mastered makeup tricks to look like zombies (or "walkers" as they're called on the show).

"The Walking Dead is like the new Family Ties, OK? It's tying families together," said actress and playwright Danai Gurira, who plays Michonne on the show. "The thing that's touched me the most is when I've met mothers of adolescent sons who say, 'This is how me and my son bond. It's because we both watch the show.' And you know those adolescent years are tricky years for parents and I was just so touched by that. I thought it was so beautiful that this show is functioning in that way."

At what age kids can handle the gore varies by family.

The violence doesn't bother Calcagno's kids. Instead she says they hypothesize what they would do to survive if zombies were hot on their trail.

Sue Thomas, a mother of three from Waukesha, Wis., watches weekly with her two teens, who are 19 and 17. She's decided her youngest can join in a few months when he turns 15, although he's not happy about the wait.

"He makes sure we know how annoyed he is that we watch and he can't yet."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Nora Ephron was the voice for women

THE SHOW: Everything is Copy – Nora Ephron Scripted and Unscripted (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The Esquire cover

Filmmaker Jacob Bernstein — Nora Ephron and Carl Bernstein's son — interviews a glittering array (Meryl Streep, Mike Nichols, Barry Diller, Meg Ryan) about Ephron, who died in 2012. He also shows clips of Ephron herself.

In one, she relates how Harold Hayes, the legendary editor of Esquire magazine, offered her a column. "What do you want to write about?" he asked.

"Women," she replied.

Bernstein cuts to the cover of Esquire's 40th anniversary edition, October 1973, which featured its 39 best contributors: Ernest Hemmingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Truman Capote, Vladimir Nobokov, Tennessee Williams, Leon Trotsky, etc. Only two are women: Dorothy Parker, and Ephron. I was 11 in 1973, but already I loved Ephron's writing. Everyone did. She was funny, clever, vicious, fearless.

Nora Ephron wrote an essay on women in Esquire's October 1973 40th anniversary edition. CONTRIBUTED

But looking at that cover, it's no wonder we worshipped Ephron, and still do: She was the only one. "Women" is a big topic, and she had it to herself.

The doc tells great stories (Ephron hung with the best storytellers) about why she was the way she was: How her parents' alcoholism stiffened her resolve. How her detachment enabled her to transform her flaws and heartbreaks into material. How her charm and control-freakiness merged to make her a person no one could refuse.

Mainly, though, we witness how fiercely she worked to become and remain a voice for women. If there could be only one, we're lucky it was she.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Hidden costs of home ownership

REAL ESTATE

Unexpected expenses can take a toll on your finances

Tanya Enberg

For renters, buying a first home is an exciting time.

But with the arrival of unexpected costs and expenses not budgeted for the harsher realities of home ownership can quickly kick in.

Sudden pop-up surprises from repairing a leaky roof and paying premium hourly rates for a plumber to fixing an overflowing toilet, painting, updating fixtures, and the cost of furnishing an entire house can make the sweet factor of owning real estate take a rather sour financial turn.

When Lindsey Coulter, 37, and husband Mike Lada, 38, took the leap from condo living to home ownership in 2010, they were thrilled to find a detached house with upgrades on all three floors in Toronto's popular Danforth area.

Initially, they shelled out $3,000 for painting and $15,000 to furnish the space, upgrades for which they planned.

Then came the first of several surprises.

"Two months after we moved in, the city came to upgrade the water supply," recalled Coulter.

"To connect into the house cost us an unplanned $2,500."

Soon after that they discovered a small leak coming from a cracked pipe behind their newly painted basement walls.

"We were washing something using the exterior hose and when we came back inside, we discovered one of the interior walls soaked and warped from the pressure of the flowing water," she added.

They hired a plumber to replace the pipe, however, to save cash, Lada and a friend learned how to drywall and paint watching a YouTube video and completed the finishing touches themselves.

The couple coasted for a while. In 2012, they welcomed twin daughters, Emma and Grace, and settled into family and home life.

Then came a basement flood in 2015, after a massive snowfall began to thaw.

"This forced our family to move out of the house for two weeks and cost $5,000 to fix," Coulter recalled. In time, they also had to replace a dishwasher and the laundry machine.

"Any new homeowner should just anticipate that appliances can really wear out at any time, usually immediately after the conclusion of the warranty," Coulter said.

Sandra Rinomato, a Toronto west real estate broker known for her role hosting the popular TV show, Property Virgins, says it's important not only to budget for the extra cash demands that come with owning a home, but also the cost of your lifestyle.

Lindsey Coulter, 37, and husband Mike Lada, 38, took the leap from condo living to home ownership in 2010. They were thrilled with their home — then came the surprise repairs and upgrades. JON NICHOLLS

"Understand what you spend," said Rinomato.

"Forget about what you're getting. Forget about how much you earn. Those are two great numbers, but what do you actually spend? Are you the person who says 'I am going to stop shopping at Saks' and then find you're depressed because you can't shop at Saks or pay for those facials? Whatever makes you happy, whatever makes your heart sing, how much does that cost? Budget for it. You can actually have a life and own a home. It is possible."

GTA home seekers may discover their dollar doesn't stretch very far and may need to scratch some items off their wish list.

"If you don't have deep pockets and you're not going in to renovate and strip it down to the studs, then you really do have to look at the mechanics, look at the layout, look at the things you can't change, or can change but it costs money," Rinomato said.

Mortgage terms that buyers should know

Before you dive into a mortgage, make sure you have a full understanding of the relevant lingo. ISTOCK

When it comes to mortgages, borrowers don't always have a good working knowledge of the relevant lingo, according to a January study by D+H Consumer Mortgage.

Read on for some key terms you should know.

Portable

Only 43 per cent of new mortgage holders surveyed by D+H knew this term. If your mortgage is portable, you can transfer it from a property you've sold to a newly purchased property. Why does that matter?

"Let's say you take a five-year mortgage out on your condo and after three years you get married and you want to sell the condo and buy a house," said David Fleming, of torontorealtyblog.com. "If you're not allowed to port that mortgage, you're going to have to pay a penalty. And that penalty can be substantial."

High ratio

Almost half (49 per cent) knew this term. If you have less than a 20 per cent down-payment, you'll have to buy mortgage insurance through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC), Genworth or Canada Guaranty.

The insurance comes in the form of an up-front fee of 1.75 to 3.85 per cent or your home's purchase price, depending on your financial circumstances. But this insurance isn't meant to protect you. Instead it protects the lender against the possibility you'll default on your loan, said RE/MAX West real estate agent and one-time lawyer Brian Madigan.

If you can beg, borrow or steal (OK, maybe not steal) enough cash, to put 20 per cent down on a "conventional mortgage" you should do it, he advised.

Rate hold

Only 55 per cent knew this potentially helpful term. With a rate hold, the lender guarantees a specified interest rate for a set period of time — usually two to four months. Even if interest rates go up, you'll get that lower rate. Even better, you're not locked in; if interest rates drop, you can negotiate a lower rate.

Amortization

Fully 81 per cent recognized this term referring to the schedule for repaying a mortgage over a fixed period of time. The longest amortization period allowed is 25 years.

Closed-term mortgage

Familiar to 84 per cent of respondents, most mortgages are closed, meaning you make payments on a set schedule (although you may be allowed to make extra payments or lump sum payments at set intervals without penalty). In contrast, you can pay an open mortgage off as quickly as you wish, with no penalty.

So that's better, right? For most people it's not, said David Larock of TMG The Mortgage Group. The reason: you'll pay a price for the flexibility of an open mortgage – often an extra 1.5 per cent in interest.

Pre-approval

About 86 per cent of respondents knew this term, which means a lender has made an actual commitment (subject to conditions such as a property valuation) to loan you money.

Lenders generally ask for two years of income tax returns, T-4s and other documentation, said Fleming.

Once you have pre-approval, you can shop for a house with confidence. CAMILLA CORNELL

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Protecting your most valuable asset

THE RIGHT COVERAGE

Everything you need to know when choosing home insurance

Camilla Cornell

If you plan on becoming a homeowner, you'll need insurance for protection. It's traumatic enough to have a tree branch crash through your window or a fire ravage your house, without having to worry about how you'll pay for the repairs. And, whether your insurer will come through in a pinch. "Even small disasters can be challenging for people," said Pete Karageorgos, the Ontario director of consumer and industry relations for the Insurance Bureau of Canada. That's why it's important to choose your homeowner's insurance policy carefully and read the fine print. Here's what to look out for.

Get the broadest coverage possible
Just as General Motors makes Chevrolets, Cadillacs and Buicks — all with different features and benefits — most insurers offer a number of different options for homeowners, said Karageorgos.

Think of the "all-risk" policy (also called comprehensive) as the Cadillac of the options with the most bells and whistles. It protects you against anything that is not specifically excluded in the policy.

In contrast, the "named perils" (standard or basic) policy is generally cheaper, but covers you only for the specific events or perils listed in the policy.

The "broad form" policy is a middle-of-the-road version that generally combines all-risk coverage on the building, with 'named perils' coverage on the contents.

All three policies will protect you in the case of fire, personal liability, or theft, for example, but you're better off with an all-risk policy, because you can't always predict the type of damage that is going to occur to your home. "If there's a power surge and your television gets fried, a basic policy might not cover that because it may not be specifically one of the named perils," explained Karageorgos, "whereas, a comprehensive policy would."

Read the fine print
Even all-risk policies come with a list of exceptions on coverage, as well as caps on payments for specific categories (such as electronics or jewelry). You'd be wise to sit down with an insurance professional and compare several policies in terms of the coverage and caps, as well as the deductibles. "Some insurance policies have different limits for sewer backup coverage," he said. "If you have a finished basement you might want the higher limits and more coverage than someone whose basement is unfinished."

What's more, even comprehensive policies have a list of exclusions — things that are not covered under the policy. Commonly those include intentional or illegal acts (like burning down your own house), damage caused by raccoons, termites and other vermin, and wear and tear.

"Typically you see the words 'sudden and accidental' in a policy," said Karageorgos. "So, if a tree branch falls down and breaks through your window you're covered. But if the window breaks because the caulking hasn't been applied and water seeps inside over time, it's a maintenance issue."

Protect expensive items separately
Insurance companies generally divide your belongings into categories and limit payments for each. There might be a $2,000 limit on jewelry, up to $10,000 for silverware, $300 for money and gold bullion, and $2,000 for software. If you have expensive items — whether art work, musical instruments or even bicycles — you might want to check on the coverage limit. You may well be able to pay extra for a 'rider' that will bump up coverage for those items, said Karageorgos.

It pays to shop around
Home insurance is not a government-regulated product, so you'll find tremendous variation, both in the prices you'll pay for it, and in the extent of coverage you get. Comparison sites such as lowestrates.ca and insurancehotline.com do some of the legwork for you. But make sure you're comparing apples with apples in terms of the coverage you get.

Look for the license
Insurance brokers are licensed through the Registered Insurance Brokers of Ontario (RIBO) and insurance agents are licensed through the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO). "You always want to deal with a professional," Karageorgos said.

Disasters large and small are challenging to deal with, so make sure you're properly insured. ISTOCK

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A few common myths might keep you from maximizing your profits. ISTOCK

Selling your home: fact from fiction

The Greater Toronto Area is a seller's market by just about anyone's standards. In March, the average selling price of a home was up 14.9 per cent annually to $685,278, according to the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB). And homes sat on the market just over 22 days on average, with dwellings in hot neighbourhoods frequently selling within a week.

Yet, as Sharn Kandola, co-founder of a real estate website feeDuck.com points out, many homeowners don't seem to be aware that this puts them in a position of power when it comes to selling a home. Here are some common myths and misconceptions that might keep you from maximizing your profits.

Myth 1: You can't negotiate fees with a real estate agent
Wrong, said Kandola: "The rules are really up to the individual agent." Across the country, the standard commission rate for a full-service brokerage (which handles all aspects of selling your home from the open houses to marketing and paperwork) is five or six per cent, split between the seller's agent and the buyer's agent.

But that fee isn't written in stone. When Kandola and three neighbours met at a barbecue and compared notes on what they paid in commissions to buy and sell their properties, they found a range of three to six per cent. "When you do the math, you could be paying $20,000 or more than your neighbour," said Kandola.

Since not everyone is comfortable negotiating a lower fee, feeDuck puts the ball in the realtor's court by launching a sort of reverse auction for the homeseller's business. Sellers post a few key details about their home (postal code, type of structure, number of bedrooms, etc.) on feeDuck's website and real estate agents compete for the listing by bidding down their commission rate.

The response from homeowners, as well as agents, has been overwhelmingly positive, said Kandola. Since its launch in January 2013, feeDuck has taken its business national. And it recently extended the service to homebuyers.

Myth 2: Once I sign on with a broker I'm locked in
That too is negotiable. Typically agents have agreements that lock you in as a client for three months to a year, said Kandola.

Myth 3: It's as much in my realtor's interests as mine to get the highest price for my home
Not really. It's true that, in conventional arrangements, agents get a percentage of the sale price. Still, most would prefer to sell your house fast and pocket less.

Why? Let's say you hold off on taking the first offer that comes along because you believe you can get at least another $10,000 for your home. That's a substantial amount of jingle in your pocket, but your real estate agent (as the seller) will get only about 2.5 per cent of the amount — a piddling $250. He'd rather get that home sold. The upshot: don't be pushed into taking an offer you think is too low. CAMILLA CORNELL

metro HOME
Your essential daily news

Ikea's enigmatic founder, Ingvar Kamprad, turns 90

Commercial-residential

CONDO TRENDS

Great retail a bonus for both residents and visitors

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

Toronto developers have an interest in bringing high-quality retailers and services to their condominiums, aimed at enhancing the lives of both the residents and the people who visit the area.

Take for example, how the West Don Lands is fast becoming a new destination for shopping and tourism as the Canary District condos have signed on four new retailers. This brings the total to 11 retailers that will be initially opening on the reconfigured extension of Front St., a meandering, grand boulevard with two lanes of traffic, one lane of parking and two lanes of linear park, about as wide as Spadina is now.

Canary District developer Dundee Kilmer is targeting retailers that are among the GTA's top locally-owned and operated businesses.

"We believe this mix of services is a testament to the healthy lifestyle of Canary District residents and the overall positive well-being of this engaged neighbourhood," says Dundee president, Jason Lester.

Everyone knows that Yonge and Eglinton is one of the trendier condo neighbourhoods to live in. Mainly because it's an area of the downtown that's alive with retail and lifestyle options. It's also an area that is undergoing explosive highrise growth in anticipation of the new Eglinton Crosstown LRT.

One of the more interesting developments is E Condos, a collaboration between Bazis Inc., Metropia, and RioCan, the latter being no stranger to large retail projects in Canada, and construction of the two towers is well underway at the northeast corner of Yonge and Eglinton.

In what amounts to the ultimate in convenience for residents, the development will offer indoor direct-access to the Yonge-University subway line and the stores, restaurants and movie theatre at the Yonge-Eglinton Centre, also by Riocan.

And further south on Yonge Street, the wraps have finally come off the newly-renovated row of three-storey storefronts that date back to the late 1800s. The anchor tenant is a just-opened RBC bank branch that is situated at the base of the 48-storey 5 St. Joseph condo tower.

The newly-renovated row of three-storey storefronts dating back to the late 1800s are part of the 48-storey, 5 St. Joseph condo tower at Yonge Street south of Bloor. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

IN THE 'HOOD

Four retailers coming to the Canary District Condos:

Gears Bike Shop
With everything a cyclist requires, regardless of ability and has been making cycling accessible to Canadians since 1988.

Sukhothai
Offering critically acclaimed, authentic Thai since 2008, it will be opening its fourth Toronto location at Canary District.

Tori's Bakeshop
The popular, eco-friendly, all natural organic bakery is expanding from its first retail location in the Beaches neighbourhood.

East Side Meats
A new butcher shop that will offer locally sourced, top quality, ready-to-cook meat and seafood products, flavoured by homemade marinade.

Two brothers transform a century-old lodge into the ultimate weekend destination.

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Green builders are raising the bar

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

Builders and developers across the GTA are raising the bar for building green, sustainable communities. Some techniques will see them incorporate innovative technologies, use creative architectural design or find ways to reduce construction waste, among others.

Every year the building and development industry celebrates builders committed to building energy efficient and sustainable homes to encourage continuous innovation in green building.

For their effort, BILD members are often recognized as industry leaders in green building and recently, some of the leaders stood out at the annual EnerQuality Awards. EnerQuality is Canada's top certifier of energy efficient homes and is the market leader in the design and delivery of green building programs. The most prestigious award is the Ontario Green Builder of the Year, which recognizes a builder that raises the bar for the rest of the industry through its leadership in improving the environmental, energy efficiency, and overall image of the industry.

“ Builders across the GTA are pushing their teams to find innovative ways of increasing the environmental performance and sustainability for new homes.

At the awards presentation in February, BILD member Minto Communities took home the top prize for the second straight year.

Among the builder's list of accomplishments last year was offering net-zero-energy ready homes in one of its new communities in Ottawa, featuring increased insulation and air tightness. Among this year's winners was another BILD member Mattamy Homes, picking up the ENERGY STAR for New Homes Builder of the Year - Large Volume award for the third time. Mattamy was one of the first builders to participate in the ENERGY STAR program, which has grown become the most successful green building program in Canada.

BILD member Tridel won EnerQuality's inaugural Building Innovation – Mid and High-Rise Award for demonstrating technical excellence while integrating innovation in energy efficiency and green building practices. Noteworthy accomplishments include Tridel's net-zero-energy condo suite NetZED, where the energy consumed equals or exceeds the energy produced by the suite's solar panels.

Builders across the GTA are pushing their teams to find innovative ways of increasing the environmental performance and sustainability for new homes. It's not only homebuyers who benefit, but everyone in the GTA.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 NOW OPEN

Scarborough: SweetLife, a new midrise condo near the Rouge Valley, is now officially open for sales. Head on over to 4470 Kingston Rd., in Scarborough.

CONTACT: 647-351-5440, SWEETLIFECONDOS.CA

2 OPEN HOUSE

Queen West: Here's a one-bedroom suite that's being shown at the Art Condos in the Queen West neighbourhood. Check it out at 8 Dovercourt Rd., on Apr. 2 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: SACHA SINGH, RE/MAX WEST REALTY INC., BROKERAGE, 416-281-0027

3 NOW REGISTERING

Richmond Hill: Rialto townhomes at Yonge and Elgin Mills in Richmond Hill, features finished basements and double-car garages. Register online for more information.

CONTACT: 905-851-1849, RIALTOTOWNS.COM

MEET THE CONDO

The SCOOP on this midrise

Project overview

SCOOP, a new contemporary midrise by Graywood Developments, promises to be the visual anchor for the surrounding streetscape. It will feature retail shops at street level and emphasize a sense of community through its common spaces.

Housing amenities

The condo includes a library and seating area that connects to a formal dining and meeting space. There is a communal garden and outdoor space, accessible from the dining room. The building will also offer a gym.

Location and transit

This boutique condominium is located right in the heart of West St. Clair West in a transit-oriented residential neighbourhood. It's serviced by the TTC's St. Clair light rail transit line, which quickly gets you to the St. Clair West subway station.

In the neighbourhood

New restaurants, art galleries and independent businesses are opening between established boutiques, local watering holes and neighbourhood staples. Earlscourt Park, Wadsworth Park and a Community Centre will give residents access to pools, tennis courts and an off-leash dog park.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

CONTRIBUTED

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: SCOOP
Builder: Graywood Developments
Architect: SMV Architects
Interiors: TACT Design
Location: 1771 St. Clair West
Building: Six-storey midrise, 72 suites
Sizes: From 550 to 1,200 sq. ft.
Pricing: From low-$200,000s
Suites: One bed to two bed plus den
Status: Pre-construction, registration phase
Occupancy: Summer 2019
Phone: 416-366-6100
Website: scoopcondos.com
Email: info@scoopcondos.com

LEGAL MATERS

Power-of-sale problems

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: We have found the perfect condo for our first-time home purchase, but it is power of sale. The bank that is selling it has crossed out a bunch of representations in the offer and we have consulted with our lawyer about these omissions. We are concerned that we are not going to get what we contracted for and therefore are quite nervous about this process. Can you give us any guidance?

A: When you are buying a property from a bank, they have generally foreclosed on the owners because they have not paid their mortgage. You can get a good deal in these situations, but you have to realize there are a couple of things you need to be aware of.

Financial institutions that are selling their clients properties will never represent to the potential purchaser about a number of concerns that are usually found in the agreement of purchase and sale.

These include legal descriptions of parking spots and lockers, concerns about urea formaldehyde foam insulation and the status of the property in terms of common expense arrears and property lines.

It is vitally important that your lawyer do a comprehensive search of the property to make sure you are getting what you think you are getting. Without these assurances, you may end up with only half the property you paid for with very little recourse — except against your lawyer.

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EMPIRE RAIN & SENSES

Window dressing helps protect birds

SAFETY

Tips to keep feathered pals from hitting glass panes

With a house close to the Eastern Pennsylvania woods — and the wildlife that lives there — Jeff Acopian wrestled with a problem that afflicts homeowners around the world.

"Birds were hitting our windows and dying," the Easton resident says. "And we didn't like it." An engineer by profession and a naturalist at heart, Acopian came up with a solution: Acopian BirdSavers, a fixture that involves dangling pieces of parachute cord in front of windows to keep birds from flying into them.

ONE BILLION BIRDS AT RISK

Conservationists say the number of birds killed by collisions and cats will soon rise to 1 billion per year.

"It sounds pretty bad when you tell someone to hang strings on their front window," says Acopian, who nixed his original remedy, hanging strings of beads, because it made his house look like "a hippie pad."

"But when people actually see it, it is not objectionable at all," he says.

BirdSavers (at birdsavers.com) is one of a growing number of options available for folks who want to keep birds from crashing into their windows but don't want to hurt their home's curb appeal in the process.

Christine Sheppard, who runs the bird collisions campaign for the American Bird Conservancy, cites a range of relatively simple ready-made products — BirdSavers, window tape and external screens among them — as well as DIY fixes like washable window paint or hanging branches in front of windows.

These solutions are effective enough while also being subtle.

"You can reduce collisions without making your house ridiculous," Sheppard says.

While bird collisions are hardly new, she says, the magnitude of the problem is increasing, largely due to more widespread urbanization and a trend toward larger panes of glass in both residential and high-rise construction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VISUAL BARRIERS DO THE TRICK

Window collisions kill hundreds of millions of birds each year, making them, with cats, one of the two leading human-related causes of bird mortality.

Joanna Eckles, the National Audubon Society's bird-friendly communities manager, says individuals can easily reduce those numbers simply by putting some visual barrier on the exterior of the windows that birds are drawn to.

"The big thing that people need to get is that this isn't something that has to happen," she says. "This is preventable."

A window fixture uses parachute cord to deter birds from flying into the trees and bushes they see reflected in the glass. ACOPIAN BIRDSAVERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DESIGN WEBSITES

Harnessing the rich bounty of the Internet

There's Houzz. Remodelista. Home design Twitter feeds. Tumblr accounts. And of course, the granddaddy of all online decor depositories — Pinterest.

It's easy to get overwhelmed by online resources when remodeling or redecorating. Where should you start?

Home design experts and contractors offer the following tips on how to harness the bounty of the Internet for your next project:

Get organized

First, figure out the scope of your project and your goals. Redoing your kitchen, for example, is a lot different and more involved than finding a few natural accents for your living room mantle.

Are you going to do the work yourself? How-to blogs and sites like All Things Thrifty, DIY Network and This Old House are your new BFFs. Looking more for ideas to pass on to a contractor or designer? Head over to Houzz or Pinterest.

Don't overlook retailers though. Paint company websites are an underutilized home-design resource, says New York designer Karen Gray Plaisted.

Find your style

Figure out what you love. Are you a boho-chic kind of girl or do you gravitate more toward the clean, traditional lines of craftsman-style homes?

"To use home-design websites to find your own style, I'd advise you to pin or bookmark photos of every single room you love," says Amy Bell, owner of Red Chair Home Interiors in Cary, N.C. "The more rooms you save, the larger your 'data sample' will be. Once you have collected many images, take a step back and look for common themes that the images share."

Create a project page or board

"Collection" sites like Houzz and Pinterest allow users to create an unlimited number of boards or "ideabooks." Go big and create one board for your entire project, or go smaller with more specific boards like Paint Colours, Accessories, Furniture, etc.

Design it yourself

If you're looking for the ultimate in control, Ikea, Lowe's and smaller sites like Roomstyler let you design your own rooms from scratch with a virtual planner. Type in your room's dimensions, then drag and drop furnishings, windows and other elements where you want. See what your living room would look like with wooden floors. Then tile. Maybe concrete.

Don't like it? Simply press delete. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This breakfast nook was designed with the help of the web. DECOR AID

From spare room to dream closet

TIPS

All your clothes spark joy? You might need more space

Longing for a bigger closet?

Remember that rooms in your home don't have to be used the way they were originally intended. Get creative and convert a small room into the ultimate walk-in closet, says Egypt Sherrod, host of HGTV's Flipping Virgins and Property Virgins.

"Homes built before the '80s just didn't have the room size that today's buyers have become used to, or the walk-in closets we've been trained to expect," she says. Giving up a room can be a big decision.

The trick is doing it on a minimal budget and retaining the flexibility to use the room differently in the future, says Kevin O'Connor, host of PBS' This Old House.

Choosing the space

Ideally, use the bedroom closest to the master bedroom, says Sherrod: "That way you have the option of opening up the wall to go directly in." Creating a doorway in a wall is relatively minor construction and can easily be undone, experts say.

DIY creativity

The simplest way to convert a small room is by lining the walls with clothing racks on wheels and with free-standing wire shelving units. You can customize the space by adding colourful bins and baskets.

Or you can create shelving that expresses your personal style. For a recent This Old House episode, O'Connor worked with a homeowner to build closet storage out of black metal pipes with wooden shelves. The industrial look brought a dose of style to the space, and the unit was sturdy.

"The few places they anchor to the wall give you nice rigidity," O'Connor says, but the shelves also are easily removable.

Another DIY project: To fill the centre of a room that Sherrod converted to a closet, she brought in two large bureaus of the same height and arranged them back-to-back. She had a sheet of granite cut to cover the tops, creating a work island that combines storage and a flat surface for arranging accessories or stacking folded laundry.

Interior designer Mikel Welch, previously a competitor on HGTV Design Stars, says another option is bringing in a pretty table for the centre of the room.

"For those who like to lay out their attire to help them choose their outfit for the day, a table would be perfect," he says. And for changing or trying things on, "having a snazzy upholstered bench or chaise in the space will certainly come in handy."

The finishing touch: Prop up a framed, full-length mirror on one wall. "It's sort of a boutique hotel look," O'Connor says, and easy to remove if you repurpose the room.

Consider a system

For a finished look with no DIY effort, there are many closet systems that offer a mix of hanging space and shelves. Some are free-standing and others are anchored to the walls. The more permanent systems are made to look like built-ins, Welch says, and "are a great way to maximize the space with a more customized look."

Additional pieces worth considering: "A great planning tool is a valet rod, which is a pullout rod that you can lay out your outfit for the next day on or use for staging for a trip," says Sarah Fishburne, director of trend and design at Home Depot. "I use mine all the time."

If you have enough space, she suggests adding jewelry trays and racks designed for belts and ties: "Some spin, and some you can slide out with plenty of space," she says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LET LIGHT IN

Bonuses and obstacles

A bedroom repurposed as a closet has ventilation and natural light that's lacking in many closets. "For people who care about getting the tie to match the jacket," O'Connor says, "there's nothing better than natural light."

For modern homeowners struggling with tiny closets and minimal storage, the solution may be converting a spare room into the ultimate walk-in closet. HOME DEPOT/CLOSET MAID

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Green's a go for spring decor

UPDATES

Fresh colour the natural choice this season

When we start thinking "spring," one colour comes to mind.

Tender pea shoots, that soft fuzziness on budding trees, a new lawn — there's a palette of greens that herald nature's shift to the warm seasons.

And there are many fresh ways to bring green indoors with paint and furnishings.

"Green is Mother Nature's favourite colour. It's so abundant in the world around us that we're accustomed to seeing it as a background colour," says Lee Eiseman, head of the Eiseman Center for Color Information and Training near Seattle.

She also points out the "good-for-you" connotations of green — eating fruits and vegetables, juicing and so on — and the generally calming nature of the hue.

Dee Schlotter, the spokesperson for PPG Brands, design and colour marketers and makers of PPG Paints, says, "Green is restorative, rejuvenating and fresh. Being in nature brings an ease or a relaxation that's almost immediate. Recreating that feeling in the home is very popular right now."

The company has chosen Paradise Found as their 2016 colour of the year. It's a soothing grey-green with a hint of blue.

Greens like this play well with others. Combining grey-green with matte black modernizes a traditional space. Paired with white, the colour becomes more mineral and organic.

Farrow & Ball has a new, leafy, verdant hue with historic provenance to help commemorate the paint maker's 70th anniversary.

"Yeabridge Green was originally found in an 18th century Georgian farmhouse in the (United Kingdom) county of Somerset," creative director Charlie Cosby recalls. During renovation, an original gun

Green is a trending colour this spring as people respond to wellness trends and the need for calmness in a hectic world.

PPG Paints' 2016 colour of the year, Paradise Found, is a complex, leafy hue. ANGUS MCRITCHIE/PPG VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rich and earthy, it's a green in the family of avocado, olive and evergreen.

Crate & Barrel's Marin collection of artisan-made stoneware comes in a relaxed yet sophisticated lemongrass shade. There's a soft wool rug named Baxter in the hue as well.

If you're trying green for the first time, Eiseman advises looking at the blue-greens. "They're the most universally pleasant and least risky," she says. "Particularly teals and deep turquoise."

West Elm has a little mid-century-style desk and wooden

CB2 has a sleek, low-profile dresser done in high-gloss mint lacquer. They also have a mint, powder-coated steel filing cabinet, and an array of minty trays, vases and napery.

Saturated shades like chartreuse, citron and lime give a "pop" to walls and home accessories. At All Modern, find bold, zigzag-printed throws and slipper chairs from Amity Home, Deny Designs and Handy Living.

Kitchenaid's mixers and tools come in a fresh apple green.

Looking for other colours with which to pair green?

"Reach across the colour wheel and choose the complementary colours," Eiseman says. "It's the rose tones, wines and warm purples that are very effective with shades of green."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We're looking for that restful shade to bring the outside in, and provide balance in our lives.

Lee Eiseman, Eiseman Center for Color Information and Training

Super kitchens bring it all together

TRENDS

New era kitchen includes work and relax space

American kitchens have always served as more than cooking and eating spaces. Generations of kids have done homework at kitchen tables. Parents claim counter space to organize family miscellany, tap out work emails on laptops or install a television.

But now those work and entertainment uses are part of kitchen design from the get-go.

The era of the "super kitchen" has arrived.

"Our findings show that homeowners expect kitchen renovations to go far beyond improving flow, storage or esthetics," said Nino Sitchinava, principal economist at Houzz.com, in announcing the site's 2016 Kitchen Trends Survey.

"The 'super kitchen' has literally become a living room, family room and office, with finishes, layouts and decor that challenge us to define where the kitchen ends and the rest of the home begins."

Interior designer Mikel Welch calls the kitchen "the new epicenter of the house."

"Everybody's working from home," and they often prefer doing that in an open kitchen rather than a sequestered home office.

A built-in desk is designed to match the rest of the kitchen. HOME DEPOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORKIN' IT Many kitchens now have desks or computer workstations. Non-kitchen items are stored in "built-ins that match the rest of the kitchen."

Features of a true "super kitchen"

• **High-tech stations** Designer Tiffany Brooks, host of HGTV's Most Embarrassing Rooms in America, says homeowners want technology within easy reach, but protected from food and drink spills. Some add a built-in iPad docking area or laptop station on a counter, while others choose the less expensive option of adding a tablet dock mounted under a cabinet, with an arm that swings out.

People also want power. Pop-up outlets are being installed directly into countertops, says Sarah Fishburne, director of trend and design for the Home Depot. Wireless "charging countertops" are also available, including LG's Tech Top and Dupont Corian. And homeowners are adding extra power outlets throughout the kitchen, and designing dedicated charging areas with power strips.

Another tech choice: Dishwashers that run almost silently, so they won't distract you while you're working in the kitchen. And full-size televisions are being added to the main cooking area so you can do your binge-watching in the same place where you try to avoid binge-eating..

Occasionally, new kitchen technology does involve food: "Warming drawers are huge," Brooks says.

And some people, Welch says, "want to essentially bring Starbucks to them." Restaurant-quality drink facilities are being added to home kitchens.

• **More surfaces, more seating, more storage** "An emerging trend is two islands being incorporated into a kitchen, if there is space," says Fishburne.

Several of Welch's design clients have requested oversize countertops that "allow six to eight people to comfortably sit with barstools," he says.

Lounging-friendly seating is a priority. If a kitchen doesn't have space for a sectional sofa or other large seating, some homeowners are knocking down walls to merge the kitchen with other rooms.

Kitchen storage, too, is becoming more stylish and more organized. Closet-design systems originally conceived for bedroom closets are now being used to organize kitchen cabinets and pantries, Brooks says.

And rather than cramming work papers or family files into a cabinet designed for dishes, designers are building office and crafts storage into the kitchen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

APPLIANCES

Pizza ovens: hot in the house or in the backyard this spring

Pizza Hut is fine when you feel like going out. But with pizza ovens designed for the kitchen or backyard, you can have that restaurant taste at home.

This spring, one of the most recognizable names in home appliances will go after a piece of that pie when GE Monogram starts selling a $10,000 electric, residential wall model designed to fit into the space of a standard 30-inch wall oven.

"We saw a considerable market gap when it came to the available at-home options for pizza enthusiasts and home chefs," said Wayne Davis, commercial leader at FirstBuild, a subsidiary of GE Appliances.

GE fired up its oven and cooked pizza in the middle of the Las Vegas Convention Center at this year's recent Kitchen and Bath Industry Show. There's also a propane-powered, outdoor, countertop Napoli Pizza Oven from Lynx Grills.

Like others, the Napoli has a stainless exterior, a pizza stone, and a stone-like interior designed to reflect heat like a brick oven. It requires about 30 minutes or so to heat to an internal temperature of 700 degrees or more.

The Artisan Fire Pizza Oven by Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet reaches 800 F and can cook a Neapolitan-style pizza in fewer than three minutes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After that, a Neapolitan-style pizza should cook in a matter of minutes, but the ovens also can be adjusted to cook other styles of pizza and calzone.

In addition to the $4,000 countertop model, the Napoli also comes paired with a freestanding cart at $6,500 for the set. Another company, Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet, has a $6,900 outdoor countertop model called the Artisan Fire Pizza Oven that can be packed up for a tail-gate party.

"It comes in three layers. Each layer can be easily unstacked and moved by one person," said company spokesman Bradley Carlson.

"It's not only about the grill anymore," he said.

"People are becoming more sophisticated in terms of what they're cooking outdoors."

At the kitchen show, Kalamazoo debuted an $11,000 "rolling pizza station" that holds the Artisan Fire oven and features built-in bins for storing toppings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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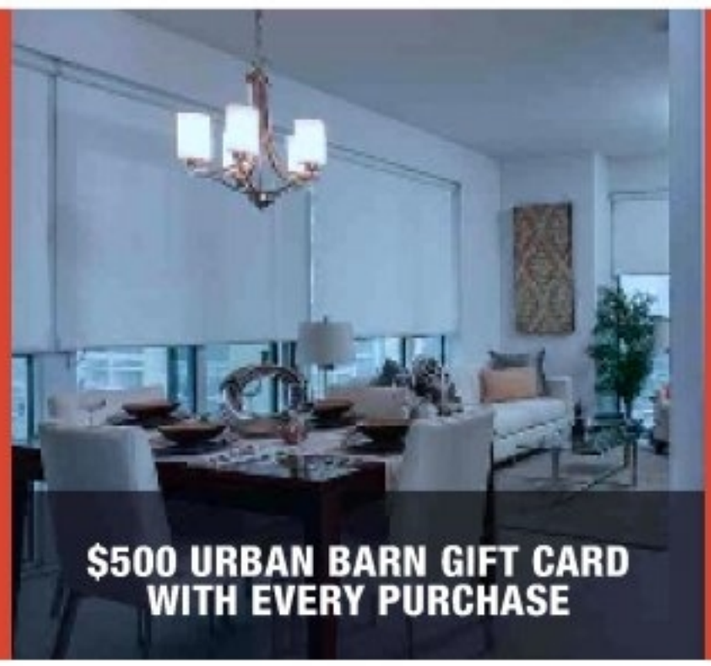

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"I love the city. I had a lot of friends there. But this is a business": Phil Kessel who is thriving away from T.O. with 29 points in March for Pittsburgh

Hawks go down in Raptors' history

Norman Powell punches home two points against the Hawks.
FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Win over East rivals a new team best and symbolic boon

WEDNESDAY At ACC

105	97
RAPTORS	HAWKS

The Toronto Raptors have won 50 games for the first time in franchise history.

The Raptors reached that mark with a 105-97 win over the Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday evening. Toronto surpassed their previous high of 49 wins, set last season.

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors (50-24) with 26 points, including three three-pointers. Kyle Lowry struggled with his shot and a lingering elbow injury, managing 17 points and 11 assists.

Jonas Valanciunas added 19 points and nine rebounds, taking advantage of Atlanta's smaller front court.

The Raptors took a 22-point lead into the fourth quarter, but the Hawks quickly cut that cushion to single digits with a reserve-heavy lineup. However, the comeback fell well short.

Atlanta's normally prolific front line of Al Horford and Paul Millsap combined for just 14 points. Jeff Teague led the Hawks with 18 points.

The Raptors looked to be teetering early in the third quarter, as a 13-point halftime lead shrunk to five just three minutes into the frame. However, they went on a 31-14 run the rest of the way. The spurt was keyed by rookie Norman Powell. He scored 10 points in the quarter, including a play that had him beat Hawks point guard Dennis Schroder with a crossover dribble before dunking in transition.

Despite having fluid drained from his right elbow after Monday's loss to Oklahoma City, Lowry started for the Raptors. Lowry was wearing a sleeve over the elbow for most of the game before ditching it in the fourth quarter. Casey said he trusted his veterans, like Lowry and Luis Scola, who sat out with sore left knee, to know when they needed to rest and what they could play through.

"He had a lot of stuff drained out of there," Casey said of Lowry's elbow before the game. "I don't even want to describe it. A lot of junk."

Lowry missed his first six shots from the field. He hit his first shot with 4:19 remaining in the second and finished 4 for 19 on the night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WESTERN CONFERENCE'S WORST

Lakers duo feels heat thanks to Iggy video

Lakers coach Byron Scott is "disappointed" that an unflattering video of Nick Young apparently taken by rookie teammate D'Angelo Russell became public.

Scott declined to address any details about another embarrassment for the Western Conference's worst team after their shootaround for Wednesday's game against Miami.

Russell apparently recorded a video in which he asked Young about being with women other than his fiancee, rapper Iggy Azalea. The video began circulating online in the past week, although the circumstances are still unclear.

ESPN.com reported Tuesday that the breach of locker-room protocol has driven a wedge between several Lakers and Russell, the No. 2-overall pick in last year's draft. Scott declined to talk about the team's mood heading into the final two weeks of what is likely to be the worst season in franchise's history.

"The only thing that I'm disappointed about is that it got out," Scott said. "We're a family, and we try to keep everything in-house."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

D'Angelo Russell and Nick Young speak to reporters on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Fans fall from stands trying to get Curry's autograph

Four fans trying to get an autograph from Stephen Curry fell out of the stands when a railing dislodged before the Utah Jazz hosted the Golden State Warriors.

Curry had just finished his pre-game routine when he stopped to take a picture and sign a few autographs.

One fan went to first aid on his own and the other three were treated, released and returned to their seats.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Warriors' game in Utah.

Canadian pair sit fourth

Canadians Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje have dominated the top of the ice dance medal podium for the past two seasons. The one title they're missing is a world championship gold.

But the two-time Canadian champs find themselves with ground to make up after finishing fourth in the short dance at the world championships Wednesday.

Defending champions Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France were first with 76.29 points. The Canadians are stuck on 71.83. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Few closing arguments

Drew Storen, left, will back up Roberto Osuna in the Toronto Blue Jays bullpen after the Mexican phenom held on to the job as team closer Wednesday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Blue Jays to go with what they know as Osuna retains his job

After an off-season and spring when question marks continually swirled, the Blue Jays tackled their final conundrum Wednesday and decided to go with what they know.

Roberto Osuna's long wait came to an end in Florida as it was confirmed that he will keep his job as the man who shuts the door in the Toronto bullpen.

The 21-year-old held off a strong challenge from reliever Drew Storen, who was acquired from the Washington Nationals last January, to retain his role as closer.

The team made the announcement Wednesday morning before a pre-season game against the Minnesota Twins.

"I'm pretty happy to be in the ninth inning again," said Osuna. "It's about the confidence that (pitching coach) Pete Walker and the coaching staff, Gibby (manager John Gibbons), are giving to me. That means a lot to me, and obviously I'm going to do my best."

Osuna was 1-6 with 20 saves and a 2.58 earned-run average in his rookie season last year. Gibbons said familiarity with the 21-year-old Mexican was a big part of keeping him on as closer. Osuna is 1-1 this spring with a 2.45 earned-run average wit a save and seven strikeouts over 7 1/3 innings pitched.

Storen, who the Jays acquired in an off-season trade that sent outfielder Ben Revere to Washington, was 0-0 with a 3.86 ERA and two strikeouts over seven innings. He had 29 saves last year as a closer with the Nationals.

"He's fine, he said coming in 'whatever role,"' Gibbons said of Storen. "He's very valuable to us."

Storen will likely slot in as the set-up man in the eighth inning, but could be moved to closer if Osuna struggles early in his second season. Gibbons said the Jays will make adjustments to the bullpen if needed.

"We'll see how it shakes out," he said.

The Blue Jays also announced Ezequiel Carrera will be their fourth outfielder and Ryan Tepera, Joe Biagini and Arnold Leon will fill out the remaining bullpen spots.

Toronto opens its 2016 regular season Sunday at Tampa Bay. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bench (4): Josh Thole, C; Darwin Barney, IF; Ezequiel Carrera, OF; Justin Smoak, 1B/DH
Starting Rotation (4): Marcus Stroman, RHP; R.A. Dickey, RHP; Aaron Sanchez, RHP; J.A. Happ, LHP
Bullpen (8): Roberto Osuna, RHP; Drew Storen, RHP; Brett Cecil, LHP; Gavin Floyd, RHP; Jesse Chavez, RHP; Ryan Tepera, RHP; Joe Biagini, RHP; Arnold Leon, RHP.

MMA

McGregor gets shot at revenge over Diaz

Conor McGregor and Nate Diaz will do it all over again.

The UFC on Wednesday confirmed what has been widely reported for the past fortnight — that the pair will square off in a rematch that will headline the organization's summer spectacular, UFC 200 in Las Vegas on July 9.

The Irishman, the reigning featherweight champion, jumped two weight classes earlier this month to face veteran brawler Diaz in a non-title showdown at welterweight. However he saw his undefeated record unceremoniously stripped from him with a second-round Diaz submission.

The original fight, while not a classic, was a financial smash hit, almost breaking the UFC's all-time pay-per-view record.

The UFC also confirmed Wednesday that McGregor's featherweight rivals Jose Aldo and Frankie Edgar will meet at UFC 200 in an interim title bout. METRO

IN BRIEF

Neville ousted by Valencia
Spanish club Valencia has fired coach Gary Neville less than four months after hiring the former England defender.

The club made the announcement Wednesday, three days after it lost its third game in a row under the former highly rated TV analyst.

"After careful consideration, the club decided to make a change with the best interests of the (club) moving forward," it said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anscombe takes charge
Rugby Canada has named New Zealand's Mark Anscombe as head coach of the men's national team.

The 59-year-old Anscombe succeeds fellow Kiwi Kieran Crowley, who resigned in January to take over Italian side Treviso. Crowley, a former All Black, had been coach of Canada since 2008. Canadian women's coach Francois Ratier had been in interim charge of the men's team, currently ranked 18th in the world THE CANADIAN PRESS

TENNIS

Azarenka edging toward Miami title

Victoria Azarenka beat Serena Williams in the Indian Wells final less than two weeks ago, and she now faces a less daunting path to the Miami Open title.

Azarenka advanced to the semifinals and improved to 20-1 this year by beating Johanna Konta 6-4, 6-2 Wednesday.

With Williams eliminated in the fourth round, Azarenka will next play No. 2-seeded Angelique Kerber, who beat No. 22 Madison Keys, 6-3, 6-2.

No. 15 Svetlana Kuznetsova, who ousted Williams, will play No. 19 Timea Bacsinszky in the other semifinal Thursday.

Azarenka, seeded 13th, is trying to become the third woman to win Indian Wells and Key Biscayne in the same year, a feat achieved only by Steffi Graf and Kim Clijsters.

"If I'm able to make it, it's great," Azarenka said. "It seems so close, but it's really far. I want to stay in the present. I want to continue to fight." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Salmon Sloppy Joes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You're wondering if a sloppy Joe can be yummy and healthy. Well, here's your answer. These gems have omega-3s from the salmon, vitamin C from the spinach and quinoa's iron and zinc goodness.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 bunch fresh spinach, washed, trimmed and chopped
- 1 leek, washed well, trimmed and chopped well
- 2 cans salmon
- 1 cup cooked Quinoa
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 2 Tbsp mayonnaise
- 1/4 tsp salt
- pinch of pepper
- good squeeze of lemon juice

Directions

1. Sautee garlic, leeks and spinach in olive oil over medium heat until the leeks and garlic begin to soften and the spinach wilts — maybe 3 to 5 minutes.

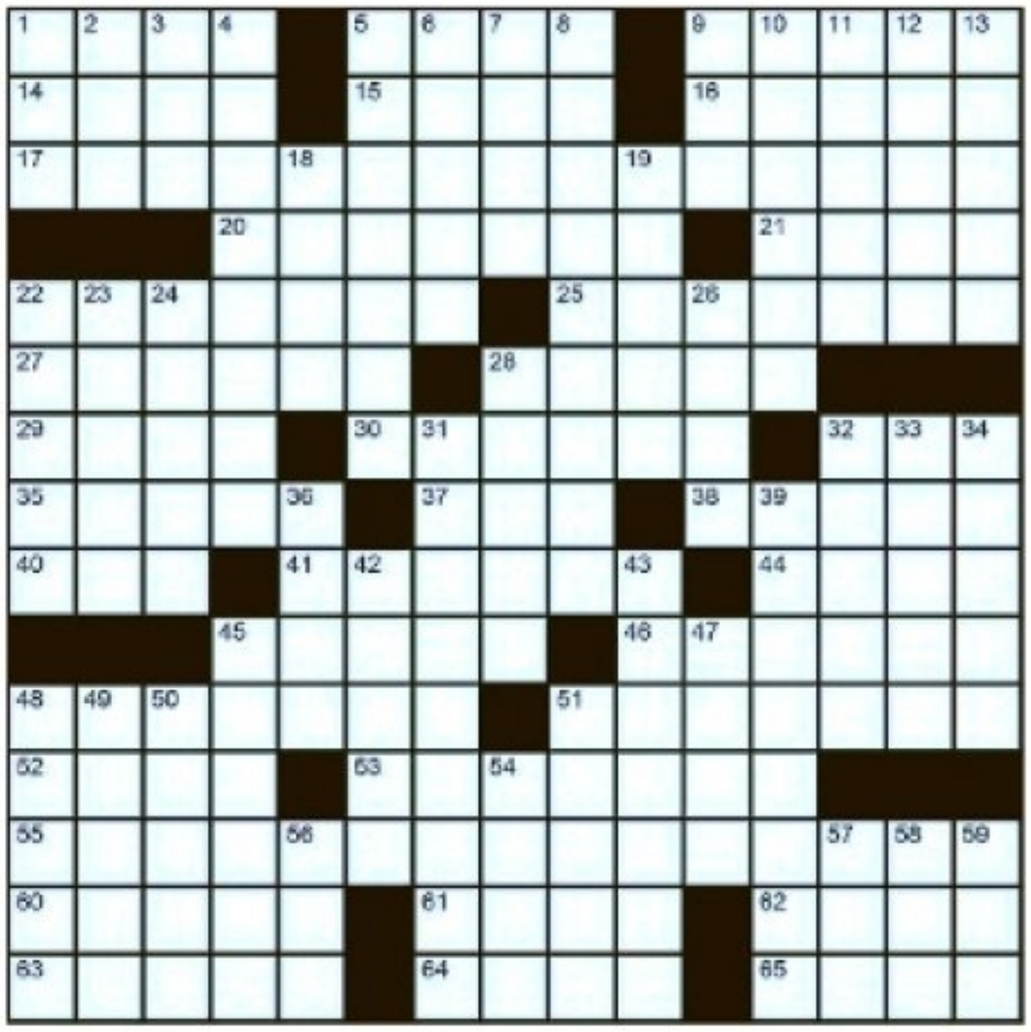
2. Drain and rinse the salmon and empty the fish into a bowl. Break it up well before adding leek mixture and quinoa and blend well. Stir in lemon zest, mayonnaise, salt, pepper and lemon juice.

3. Form the salmon mixture into patties. Cook over medium heat with a small amount of vegetable oil for about 3 minutes a side.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Paper's perspective piece
5. Attired
9. Ghana's capital
14. Cab
15. Vagabond
16. Grammy Awards org.
17. Bestseller by Canadian author Jane Urquhart which culminates with the sculpting of the Vimy Memorial in France: 3 wds.
20. Artist's prop
21. Concept
22. Yelling human
25. Saint Joseph's _ (Montreal church on Mount Royal)
27. Football kicker, sometimes
28. Sidekick
29. Vivienne's friend
30. Horrified
32. US law enforcement agcy.
35. Fast food hybrid utensil
37. Ump's call!
38. Clean with effort
40. Butterfly logo co.
41. Accepted practices
44. Possessive pronoun
45. Non-written finals
46. Start of a polite request...
48. Have fun on stage: 3 wds.
51. Yukoner's neighbouring state friend
52. Unfortunately
53. Pursuading people
55. Marconi National Historic Site of Canada, in Nova Scotia... Type of transmission made by Italian communications innovator Guglielmo Marconi, from Table Head in Glace Bay in Cape Breton, to Poldhu in Corwall in England, in 1902: 2 wds.
60. Caffeine nuts
61. _ Shan Mountains (Range in Central Asia)
62. Wicked
63. Anteater's nozzle
64. RR depots
65. Oversee

DOWN
1. Parliament Hill city, wee-ly
2. Oom-_ (Tuba sound)
3. Computer file suffix
4. Naysayer
5. "Love in the Time of _" (2007)
6. Solitude savourer
7. Aid and _
8. Highest academic degree
9. "Gimme _ '_'!" (Rimouski cheer starter)
10. Tooth's trouble
11. Words to live by
12. Less grilled
13. Try
18. England: _ Modern (London art gallery)
19. Chocolate bubbles treats
22. Muscle _
23. Camel formations
24. Chopping cook's crying causer
26. Sidewalk squishees, sadly
28. Train engine sounds
31. Hockey net supports
32. 1978 disco hit: "Le _"
33. City in Turkey
34. Norwegian dramatist Henrik
36. "Glee" role
39. Always-on-display game classic: 2 wds.
42. Barbecue _
43. Abdomen organs near stomachs
45. Bird: French
47. "_ and the Real Girl" (2007)
48. Raptors' competitors from Atlanta
49. In the Skin of _ _ (Novel by Canadian author Michael Ondaatje)
50. Actress/activist Ms. Thomas
51. Paul Bunyan, for one, in The States
54. "Be that _ _ may..."
56. Itty-bitty itemized item
57. "_ Maria"
58. Martini ingredient
59. Yore

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Something that excites you today will happen, because you will be impulsive and hyper-enthused about the unexpected. A new twist in a relationship is possible.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
A surprise secret might be revealed today, which amazes you. It could be about you or about someone else. Whatever it is, it's exciting and a bit jawdropping.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
A friend will amaze you today by saying or doing something that catches you off-guard. Alternatively, you might meet someone new who is a real character — someone who is avant-garde or bizarre.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A boss, parent or someone in a position of authority might shock you today. This person might say or do something you least expect. Nevertheless, don't quit your day job.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Travel plans will be canceled, delayed or rescheduled today. Alternatively, you suddenly might have to travel if you are not expecting to do so.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Check your bank account and legal documents because something having to do with shared property, inheritances and insurance matters suddenly might change today. Make sure you are on top of your scene.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A friend or partner will surprise you today. This person might suggest something unusual or have amazing news for you. A casual relationship could heat up. Hmmm.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your work routine will be interrupted by computer crashes, power outages, fire drills, staff shortages and canceled meetings. Give yourself extra time so you have wiggle room to deal with this.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is an accident-prone day for your children, so be aware and remove them from hazardous situations. Meanwhile, romance could be a real surprise!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Small appliances might break down today, or minor breakages could occur. An unexpected person might knock at the door. Expect anything, because today is a crapshoot!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is an accident-prone day for your sign, so pay attention to everything you say and do. Be mindful and alert.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Keep an eye on your money today because you might find money or lose it. Likewise, your possessions could be stolen or broken. Keep your eyes open!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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			4					1
		5					2	

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